

He said that as a result of the action, the church's assets had been frozen. "But when you read the Bible, the Apostle Paul had much more difficulties than we have."

## Background to revelations over Operation Clockwork Orange

## Allegations reopen the case of Wilson 'smear campaign'

By Nigel Williamson, Political Staff

The allegations made by Mr Colin Wallace of a "dirty tricks" campaign waged by the security services during 1974 and 1975 against Mr Harold Wilson and other leading politicians began to surface in the left-wing press in 1986, and overlap, in part at least, with the claims of Mr Peter Wright in *Spectator*.

Mr Wallace has written: "Information supplied by the CIA and the security services (MIS) was used to justify a number of in-depth investigations into Harold Wilson's activities and those of other Labour MPs/supporters to find out if sufficient 'hard evidence' could be gathered to wreck the Labour Party's chances of gaining power..."

"When the investigations failed to uncover anything of value, elements within the security service, supported by others in Whitehall, including former members of the Intelligence and Security Services, embarked upon a disinformation campaign to achieve the same objective."

It was at this point that Wallace claims that "Clockwork Orange", a covert operation aimed at destabilizing extremist groups in which he

was involved, was taken over for the purpose of smearing the Labour Party. It is this exercise to which Mr Wallace claims, as an Army information officer serving in Northern Ireland, he was asked to contribute.

Mr Wallace states that smear stories against prominent politicians were then distributed through a number of news agencies, many of them based in the United States, including the Information Research Department, North Atlantic News Agency, the Transworld News, Forum World Features and Previews.

The main smears seem to have surrounded the former Prime Minister, Mr Wilson (now Lord Wilson of Rievaulx).

Mr Wallace has listed 10 smears he claims he was asked to spread.

Information. The story has been partly corroborated by Dr Edward von Rothkirch of Transworld, who told the authors Barry Penrose and Roger Courtier that in 1975 he was offered "derogatory material" on 11 MPs - a Conservative, two Liberals and eight Labour - including Mr Harold Wilson.

Dr von Rothkirch became suspicious because money was never requested for the material. "They were far more interested in knowing that their material might go out on the international wire services".

The main smears seem to have surrounded the former Prime Minister, Mr Wilson (now Lord Wilson of Rievaulx).

Mr Wallace has listed 10 smears he claims he was asked to spread.

Several of the smears concerned Mrs Marcia Williams, a Wilson aide. Other smears said that Mr Wilson had refused to allow MI5 to carry out positive vetting of some members of his staff because it would have revealed them to be Communist agents; that a KGB cell was operating inside 10 Downing Street; that Mr

Wilson himself was KGB-controlled; that Hugh Gaiskill was murdered by the KGB to bring Mr Wilson to power; that Mr Wilson's KGB controller was Dick Vaynganski, an acquaintance of Lord Kagan, that senior Labour politicians were involved in income tax fraud; that more than 30 Labour MPs were active Communists; and that Mr Edward Heath, the deputy leader of the Labour Party, had a secret bank account in Switzerland.

A number of those are also duplicated in the claims of Mr Peter Wright.

Mr Wallace has also provided a list of MPs he says were on a list of targets he was given for "psy-ops" (psychological operations). Those include Dame Judith Hart, Mr Kevin McNamara and Mr Stan Thorne.

All of them have reported curious events at the time that Mr Wallace alleges the smear campaign was at its height.

The smears Mr Wallace claims he was asked to disseminate also covered Mr Edward Heath and the then leader of the Liberal Party, Mr Jeremy Thorpe.

Parliament, page 10

## High seas batter coastal resorts

By Paul Wilkinson

The owners of the Greek freighter lost with all hands during gales in the Solent on Tuesday blamed Southampton's port authorities for its sinking as stormy weather continued to lash coastal areas yesterday.

Mr Theodore Vassiliou, managing director of the Golden Union Shipping Company, of Piraeus, said the authorities should have ensured that the *Flag Theofano* was brought into a safe harbour. Instead, it was told to ride out the storm at sea. "Lives could have been saved," he said.

The *Flag Theofano*, carrying 4,000 tonnes of cement between Le Havre and Southampton, was advised to anchor off the Isle of Wight after the weather worsened. The ship and its 19 crew vanished during the night without sending a mayday. Two bodies have been found.

Captain John Read, Southampton's assistant harbour master, said: "There was no way the pilot launch could get out to the vessel and the ship could not enter the docks without their expertise."

The body of an Irish naval rating was found after an inflatable lifeboat capsized during the rescue of the 16-man crew of a Spanish trawler in Bantry Bay, Ireland, yesterday.

Up to three million trees were blown down during the storms last week, the Forestry Commission said. Up to one million trees were lost in Devon and Cornwall.



High seas pounding the inner harbour at Portreath on the north Cornwall coast yesterday.

## NEWS ROUNDUP

## More than 1.5m unlicensed TVs

Evasion of television licences is costing each licensed viewer £5 a year, Sir Clive Whitmore, Permanent Secretary to the Home Office, told the Commons Public Accounts Committee last night (writes Nigel Williamson). At the end of 1989, 1.6 million households were believed to be viewing television without a licence. Another 800,000 households were estimated to be operating colour sets while holding a monochrome licence.

There were now 19.5 million licence holders. The £5 increase in the colour fee in April would be unnecessary if evasion could be stopped. MPs were told that the area with the highest level of evasion was Northern Ireland.

## Sex attacker confined

Ted Adcock, who indecently assaulted two female members of staff at Durham prison where he was being held awaiting sentence for indecently assaulting Veronique Marot, a marathon runner, last month, was put on probation for three years yesterday on condition he is treated on a secure ward at a mental hospital. Magistrates at Bedlington, Northumberland, were told that Adcock, a bachelor aged 58, of Bedlington, admitted all three assaults.

## Ford strike spreads

The wildcat strike by Ford craftsmen spread last night as workers snubbed union officials and continued their unofficial dispute in defiance of the company's 18.2 per cent two-year wage deal (Kevin Eason writes). About 150 maintenance men walked out at Dagenham in Essex, joining 550 craftsmen at Halewood, Merseyside, who have been on strike for more than two weeks.

## Airlines seek redress

Airlines are preparing to claim compensation through the courts for losses incurred as a result of hoax bomb warnings or disruption to services by unruly passengers (Harvey Elliott writes). British Airways is demanding up to £20,000 for a five-hour delay to a Geneva-Heathrow flight when two passengers, stuck in a traffic, allegedly rang the airline to say there was a bomb on board. Britannia, who diverted a flight when a man became violent, are seeking £1,400.

## Police leak inquiry

London police and the Police Complaints Authority have set up a leak inquiry into how BBC television received details of a report prepared by Northampton police critical of the police handling of the demonstration outside News International's Wapping plant three years ago (Stewart Tendler writes). The inquiry will be carried out by Mr Trevor Morris, chief constable of Hertfordshire, who is scheduled to become an inspector of constabulary next month.

## More mail on Sunday

The introduction of Sunday postal collections is to be speeded up, the Royal Mail said yesterday. The service is being introduced ahead of schedule with the aim of starting collections nationwide by the autumn. Collections will begin in Perth, Glasgow, Inverness, Aberdeen and Carlisle by the end of this month, and in Preston, York, Bolton, Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham in March.

## £1.5m pools winner

A plumber who earns £300 a week was yesterday presented with a cheque for £1,505,443, Britain's biggest pools win, by Jerry Hall the model. Mr Alan Hepden, aged 35, of Witney, Oxfordshire, won the Littlewoods jackpot thanks to a 94th minute equalizer by Reading in their FA Cup tie against Newcastle on Saturday. At a reception at the Savoy Hotel, London, Mr Hepden, who is unmarried, said: "I will be back at work on Monday - clients are depending on me."

## Polaris submarines face reactor checks

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

A team of "troubleshooters" was yesterday checking the Resolution Class Polaris ballistic missile submarines after the discovery of a hairline crack in the primary cooling system of one of the Royal Navy's oldest nuclear-powered boats.

Since the fault was found on HMS *Warspite*, a *Valiant* Class submarine, during a refit, the overriding concern has been to clear the *Polaris* boats because of the need to maintain a non-stop patrol cycle.

With one submarine in refit and one out on patrol, the team of engineers went to Faslane on the Clyde, home of the *Polaris* boats, to check the other two submarines, one of which is "working up" to take over patrol duties. It was emphasized that although all four *Polaris* submarines would have to be checked, that would not affect the Royal Navy's guarantee of having at least one *Polaris* boat on patrol for 365 days of the year. The submarine now on patrol would be checked when it returned to Faslane.

It was believed that the fault on *Warspite*, the second oldest in the fleet of 20 nuclear-powered submarines, was probably age-related.

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# Private hospitals charge £7 a plaster and £2 an aspirin

By David Sapsted

A private hospital patient was charged £168 for a cottonwool swab, another £7 for a plaster, and a third £68 for an injection costing less than 4p, a report disclosed yesterday.

The report was the result of a survey by Western Provident Association (WPA), which said some hospitals have been adding up to 2,500 per cent to bills in "invisible charges", mainly for drugs and medical supplies.

The medical director of the British United Provident Association (Bupa), the country's largest private health-care organization, agrees that private hospitals "have an excessively high mark-up" for drugs and dressings. Yet it was a Bupa hospital that supplied the £168 swab.

The survey discovered that other independent hospitals charged almost £7 for disposable razors valued at 7p; £2 for an aspirin, and £4 for a 25p pair of surgeon's gloves. Two patients were overcharged £800 for their rooms.

Mr Julian Stainton, managing director of WPA, a Bristol-based medical insurance company with half a million subscribers, said: "There is a fantastic disparity between charges. Private hospitals can charge whatever they want; we think that they should be obliged to display a tariff."

Mr Stainton believes high prices are being charged for "invisibles" to keep down room charges. WPA cited Bupa figures showing that while the price of a room was

nearly two and a half times what it was in 1980, there had been a ninefold increase in the cost of "invisibles".

Mr Stainton said he had queried the £168 charge for an item listed simply as "swab any size" on a bill from the Bupa hospital at Roundhay Hall, Leeds; but could not establish whether it was for one swab or more. On the same £50,000 bill for a heart patient, swabs were also charged at £42 and £121. Bupa was unable to explain the disparity, but said "every now and again errors do occur".

AMI, an American-owned group that recorded a £20 million profit last year, was charging £1 for each suture at one London hospital and £6.47 at another, the survey — commissioned in the wake of subscribers' complaints about rising premiums — said.

"No reason is ever given for these discrepancies," Mr Stainton said. He added that at least 700 hospital invoices a day needed investigation because of what appeared to be blatant overcharging.

The Independent Hospitals' Association, however, said that while the WPA's examples were "obviously inflated and wrong", it considered them isolated and misleading.

Mr Tony Byrne, chief executive, said: "Organizations such as Bupa and PPF negotiate their prices directly with independent hospitals, while WPA does not. It is possible that one or two may have

submitted exaggerated claims but this is not the norm."

In a letter obtained by *The Times*, Dr Eric Blackadder, Bupa's group medical director, says: "We have found that not only do private hospitals have an excessively high mark-up, sometimes 200 or 300 per cent, but the quantities are also excessive."

"I am afraid the only thing we can do is to check meticulously a sample of hospital bills and query high mark-ups. A 100 per cent mark-up might be reasonable to cover the cost of pharmacy, administrative, storage and other costs, but a factor of five or even tenfold is not acceptable."

● The cost of the National Health Service is expected to rise by 50 per cent within 40 years, solely because of the increase in the number of elderly people, according to a report published yesterday (Our Social Services Correspondent writes).

By 2028, there are expected to be seven million men and 8.6 million women over 60, compared with 4.8 million and 6.7 million in 1988. The biggest expanding age group is the over 85s, which will increase from 191,000 men and 589,000 women in 1988 to a projected 461,000 men and 895,000 women by 2028.

A model prepared by the Institute of Actuaries suggests that the cost of health care, now about £20 billion, would rise to £30 billion in 2028 for the same level of services at constant prices.

## Tribute to 'father of the lions'



Miss Virginia McKenna and her husband Mr Bill Travers with a drawing of George Adamson, the conservationist known as "father of the lions", who was murdered by poachers in Kenya last

August. They hope to produce a limited edition of 850 prints of the work by Gary Hodges. The proceeds will go to a fund for the preservation of the Kenya national park in Kenya which was founded by Mr

Adamson. Miss McKenna, who starred as Mr Adamson's wife Joy in the film *Born Free*, was among the speakers at a memorial service for Mr Adamson in London yesterday.

### PORTFOLIO

#### Winner to buy new car

The winner of today's Portfolio Platinum, Mrs Mabel Elizabeth Rose, will spend her £2,000 prize money on a new car.

"My husband is partly disabled, so it would be very useful to have a car with power steering," Mrs Rose, aged 62, of Cowling near Keighley, West Yorkshire, said. "We often go out for the day in the Yorkshire Dales and have holidays in Scotland."

Mrs Rose and her husband Felix, who are both retired school teachers, have been entering the competition since it started.

#### Charities gain from art award

The best of student art is to benefit two charities in a £25,000 award scheme launched at the Royal College of Art yesterday (Simon Tait writes).

The Contemporary View Awards for 1990, an exhibition of 180 of the best pieces, will be mounted at the RCA next November, judged by a panel of art critics, scholars and artists.

The works will then be auctioned for up to £200,000 in aid of the British Teenage Cancer Appeal and the Royal College of Art Student Fund by Christie's, donating its services.

The winner will receive £15,000, with £10,000 going to the winning college.

## Legal fight on Clarke reforms

By Jill Sherman  
Social Services Correspondent

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, was accused in the High Court yesterday of "jumping the gun" in spending millions of pounds of public money on health service reforms before legislation had been introduced.

A group of leading hospital consultants led by Professor Harry Keen of Guy's Hospital, is seeking a court declaration that preparatory work for setting up National Health Service trusts is unlawful. The doctors are also seeking a court order to prevent further preparation going ahead.

Professor Keen said yesterday that he had the backing of 3,000 consultants who have pledged more than £250,000 to fund the legal action.

Already, 79 institutions including Guy's Hospital, are preparing applications to set up trusts. The Government has spent £85 million in the current financial year and plans to spend a further £300 million from April to introduce key changes, such as self-governing hospitals. However, the National Health Service and Community Care Bill is unlikely to receive Royal Assent before July, nine months before the April 1991 date set for its introduction.

Mr James Goudie QC, appearing for Professor Keen, told the court that the "first wave" of self-governing hospitals would virtually be created by the time the Bill became law. "The constitutional principle — legislation first, implementation second — will be turned on its head."

The minister and the health authorities were "seriously misdirected" in preparing applications for a new status for which no legislative recognition yet existed, he said. The hearing continues today.

## Door opens to more operations on unborn

By Thomson Prestice  
Science Correspondent

Surgeons who performed the world's first heart operation on an unborn baby said yesterday that they did so to prevent the almost certain death of the child in the womb.

The baby boy, Michele Vermilio, now aged four weeks, whose parents live near Colchester, Essex, is struggling for life on a ventilator at Guy's Hospital, south-east London. His condition is so serious that the doctors were reluctant to claim that the procedure was a success.

However, they acknowledged that their work may open the way to more such operations on the unborn, some of which might be attempted in early pregnancy.

The baby's father, Mr Bernard Vermilio, a garage owner and racing driver, said he had nothing but praise for the hospital team. "There was never any question of ethics. We wanted to save the baby's life, that's all."

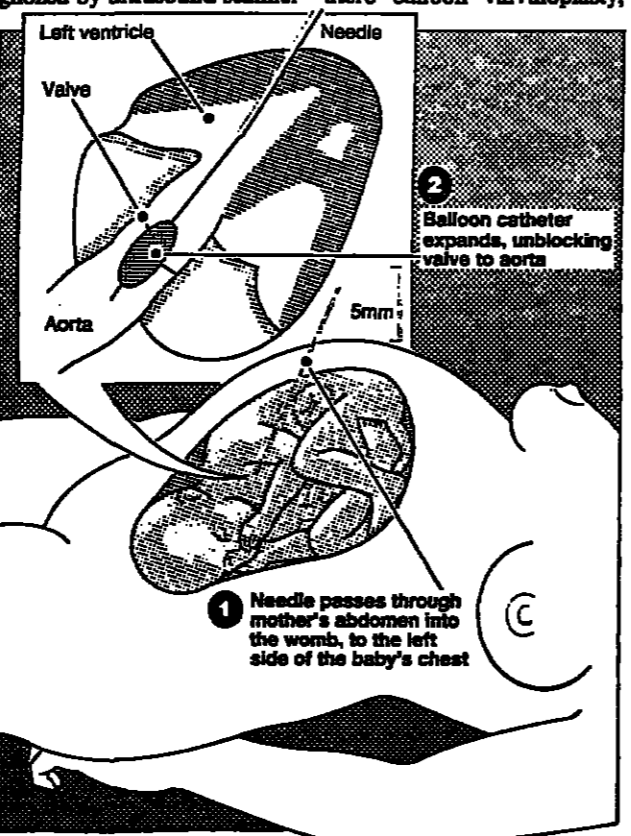
The surgeons fed a tiny balloon, attached to an extremely fine, hollow needle through the mother's abdomen, into the womb and then inflated it to expand an abnormally narrow valve which

was restricting blood flow. The mother, Mrs Ann Vermilio, aged 41, under a light local anaesthetic, was fully conscious.

The baby had been diagnosed by ultrasound scanner

as suffering from critical aortic stenosis, a rare condition which is invariably fatal, even when treated in a similar procedure after birth.

The operation, called in-utero balloon valvuloplasty,



was performed twice. It failed at the first attempt, when the mother was 31 weeks pregnant, because the balloon burst, and was tried again two weeks later.

During the second attempt, the needle was in place for about 30 minutes, but there was no evidence that it caused any pain or distress to the baby, the doctors said. The diameter of the needle was one 38,000th of an inch.

The operation was performed by three specialists at Guy's Hospital: Professor Michael Tynan, professor of paediatric cardiology, Mr Darryl Maxwell, consultant director of the fetal medicine unit, and Dr Lindsey Allan, consultant director of the perinatal cardiology unit.

"The ethical question was whether we should have intervened while the child was still in the womb or waited until it was born," Professor Tynan said at a news conference. "We know that babies with this condition die in the womb, or soon after they are born. We have not had one survivor."

Professor Tynan said he expected that more of the operations on unborn babies would be performed, at Guy's or elsewhere "when all the circumstances are appropriate." Ideally, the procedure

should be carried out at an earlier stage of pregnancy, perhaps at about 20 or 24 weeks, because the condition could be irreparable at a later stage.

"There is nothing to stop more interventions of this kind, but we believe they should only be undertaken when the only alternative appears to be virtually certain death for the baby, and we have a clear objective which we feel we can achieve," he said.

"We have to go very slowly, in a humane way, making sure that parents are aware of everything. We have a responsibility not just to be able to do things like this, but to know whether we should do them. Sometimes we may have to say no."

Mrs Vermilio, in an interview with a local newspaper, said: "It is like a living nightmare. It would be fantastic if we knew for sure he was going to survive. But only time will tell."

Other types of operation of unborn babies have been performed, notably in San Francisco last year where surgeons removed a 24-week fetus from the womb for an hour to repair a ruptured diaphragm which was restricting the development of its lungs. The baby survived.

## Commons secretaries seek pay rises up to 100%

By Tim Jones  
Employment Affairs Correspondent

House of Commons secretaries are demanding salary increases of up to 100 per cent to help them to cope with the cost of living in London and the strain of working in conditions which, they say, would be condemned in industry.

Launching their campaign, the Secretaries and Assistants Council say they believe their salaries should not be left to the generosity of the MPs who employ them. A confidential

survey of 380 secretaries showed pay scales varying from £7,000 to £22,500.

They claim that the present system is open to abuse and could enable some MPs to use part of their £25,000 secretarial and office parliamentary allowance to boost their own £26,701 salaries by paying non-working members of their families.

The survey found 17 per cent earn less than £10,000 a year, nearly 20 per cent from £10,000 to £12,000, 28 per cent up to £14,000, 24 per cent up to £16,000 and 11 per cent more than £16,000, although most of the highest paid worked for more than one MP.

Miss Victoria Leach, the council's chairwoman, who works as a personal assistant to Mrs Maria Fyfe, Labour MP for Glasgow, Maryhill, said the pay of parliamentary secretaries was meant to be linked to senior secretaries in the Civil Service earning £15,953 a year. "At present we have a complete lack of employment rights and we need a structure to ensure fair pay," she said.

● The £7 billion a year advertising industry is riddled with sexism and many agencies are unwittingly breaking sex discrimination laws, according to a report published by the Institute

of Practitioners in Advertising (Richard Evans writes).

Women executives are encouraged to dress provocatively for customers, some have been taken off accounts after refusing sexual advances by clients and others regularly face more subtle forms of discrimination, prejudice and chauvinism, the report said.

But chief executives of most advertising agencies genuinely believe their companies are meritocratic and fair to women employees, according to *Women in Advertising*, prepared for the Institute by Marilyn Baxter of Seatchi and Seatchi.

### Closure threat

## Need for vets may save two schools

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

Plans to close Glasgow and Cambridge veterinary schools are certain to be shelved after the publication of a report of a government investigation which says that the need for vets is substantially greater than earlier estimates.

The latest report, by a committee under the chairmanship of Dr Ewan Page, vice-chancellor of Reading University, says that rather than restrict the number of vets being trained in Britain to 335, universities should produce a core of at least 400.

The six veterinary schools — Cambridge, Glasgow, Bristol, Liverpool, Edinburgh and the Royal Veterinary College — should impose an annual fee surcharge of £500 for each student if they want to recruit more than 400 undergraduates a year between them, the report says.

If a school had a core intake of 65 students it could expand its admissions by 5 if it charged all students £500 a year each. Funds for this surcharge could come from special government loans, or sponsorship from veterinary practices and pharmaceutical companies.

Sir William Fraser, principal of Glasgow University, said he looked forward to an early decision from the Universities Funding Council (UFC). "I would also like to see an explanation as to why vet students should be singled out for special fee-surcharges," he said.

Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, welcomed the report's findings. Significantly he said that except in unusual circumstances the Government would no longer take

part in manpower reviews. That means that when the UFC considers the Page report it will be hard to insist that the two veterinary schools close, as recommended last year by the Riley report into veterinary education.

Professor Lawson Soulsby, head of the Cambridge veterinary school, said that although admissions were restricted to no more than 50 students a year the school could admit 65 with no additional expenditure.

"Since we need more vets not fewer the logical thing would be to leave the six schools in place rather than spend money on closing down two and expanding the other four," he said.

Although the number of veterinary students admitted

● Vet students should be charged £500 each per year ●

to universities is almost certain to increase, Professor Soulsby said it would be no easier for sixth formers to get in.

The review of veterinary manpower and education, commissioned by the Department of Education and Science and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, contains projections of the supply and demand of veterinary manpower to the end of the century, and finds it likely that there will be a significant shortfall in the number Britain needs. In the short term increased numbers of qualified overseas vets could help to fill the gap.

*Review of Veterinary Manpower and Education* (MAFF Publications, London SE9 7TP, £5).

## Judgement reserved in wrong-horse case

A High Court judge in London yesterday reserved judgement in the case of Fondra, the 26,000-guinea racehorse which never won a race.

The horse's owners, Mr Thomas Naughton and Mr Vincent Kilkenny, had high hopes when they bought the colt at Newmarket in 1981. However, they later discovered a mix-up at a stud farm had caused them to buy the wrong animal, whose value fell to only £1,500.

By that time Fondra had finished as an also-ran in all his six races.

Mr Naughton and Mr Kilkenny are suing for damages after the High Court ruled they were wrongfully misled.

Mr Adrian Maxwell, the men's former trainer, told the court yesterday how he was attracted by a foal out of the mare Habenna, sired by Habint — both successful racers, and had recommended the purchase. He said the mare

was more important than the stallion in breeding racehorses.

However, Fondra had assumed the wrong identity because of a mix-up at the Airtie Stud in Airtie, Luncan, Co Dublin.

As a result, the colt was wrongly described at Tattersalls Premier Yearling Sales in Newmarket on September 30, 1981.

He turned out to be a colt out of an unraced mare, Moon Min, sired by an unfashionable stallion, First Landing.

Mr Naughton of Pickwick Place, Harrow-on-the-Hill, north-west London, and Mr Kilkenny of Manor House, Blechnington, Oxford, are suing Mr Gay O'Callaghan, who sold the colt.

But both Mr O'Callaghan of Old Town House, Shanballymore, Mallow, Co Cork, and the Airtie Stud dispute how much compensation is owed.

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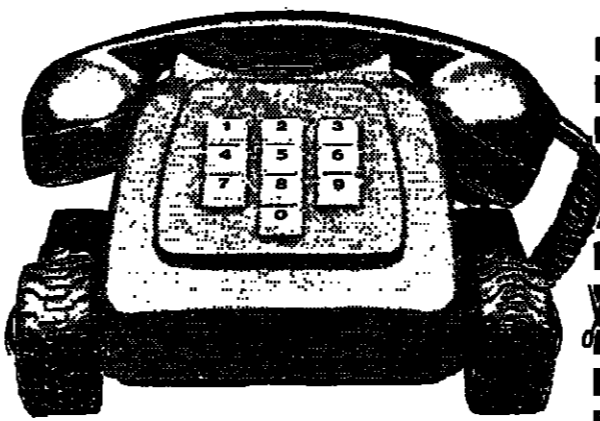
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Insured only <input type="checkbox"/> Insured & Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Any driver over 25 <input type="checkbox"/>		No Claims Bonus Percentage Years	
Signature		Expiry Date of Present Policy	

# Owen urges withdrawal of American forces from Germany

By Philip Webster  
Chief Political Correspondent

Dr David Owen called on Nato yesterday to announce that American forces will be withdrawn from a united Germany while remaining at a reduced level elsewhere in Europe.

Dr Owen, the Social Democrat leader, predicted that, although the constitutional process would take longer, East and West Germany would be united by the end of the year because of economic realities and the will of the people.

He said the West should encourage a united Germany either to be in Nato or the Western European Union and not to accept neutrality as the price for union.

To that end, Nato should redefine the United States' role and forestall potential Soviet resentment by announcing that Germany would be united by the decision of its citizens, who would not seek to deploy forces from countries outside Europe on German soil.

That would not be a green light for Britain, Belgium and The Netherlands to withdraw their forces, although some reductions could make sense.

Dr Owen, the former Labour foreign secretary, was speaking to the Royal United Institute for Defence Studies on a political and strategic perspective of Western Europe's security situation in the wake of changes in the Warsaw Pact, which he admitted ran counter to the

Delors vision of a federal Europe. In remarks that increased the distance between Dr Owen and the Liberal Democrats, and took him closer to the Conservative position, he said a diverse and pluralist Europe that worked for progressive union while respecting nationalhood would make a lasting contribution to international peace.

The Government was driving Britain further apart from its partners, he said.

Dr Owen added that a decision not to deploy American or Canadian forces on German soil should be a voluntary one taken by Nato alone as a contribution to the stable, progressive development of Europe. He predicted that within five years the US military presence in Europe

would be reduced by two thirds to 100,000 personnel, but it was strongly in Europe's interest that it remained.

It had always been a Soviet objective to have a neutral Germany and no American forces in Europe. Western Europe could never concede to the Soviets that the stationing of Soviet forces in central Europe was equivalent to American forces in Western Europe.

"We are entitled in Western Europe to bridge the Atlantic if we so wish. There is no equivalent ocean dividing the USSR from the rest of Europe," he said.

However, he said it would be understandable if the Soviet Union if a united Germany were to ask for the stationing of American troops on its

territory while it was withdrawing its forces at the request of fellow Warsaw Pact members.

He said there was no strategic logic that said that a united Germany without American support would be decoupled from the Nato or WEU nuclear deterrence strategy.

As long as the Soviets remained a nuclear power, there was every argument for France and Britain to retain nuclear weapons. A united Germany in Nato would rely on nuclear and conventional deterrence. As a WEU member, it would be able to ask France and Britain to deploy nuclear-carrying aircraft from German airfields. Dr Owen also suggested that Britain put on hold the development of

the next generation of battle tank and anti-tank systems. He said that Nato would have to look more ruthlessly at specialization between member states.

Dr Owen said that while his perspectives ran counter to the Delors vision, they would contribute to deeper European unity. Nato had shown that on national security an integrated command structure could be developed while maintaining a sense of nationhood.

Mr Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, accused Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday of "clinging to the apron strings of the Atlantic relationship and missing the opportunities of the new Europe".

Leading article, page 13

## Start of new service lowered prosecution standards, Bar says

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The standard of prosecutions has deteriorated markedly since the start of the Crown Prosecution Service three years ago, the Criminal Bar Association said yesterday.

In evidence to the Home Affairs Committee, which is investigating the service, the association said that a poll of its members in the South-east, particularly London, found that the "system is significantly less efficient than it was".

In a separate submission, however, the Law Society praises the achievements of the service although it does criticize some aspects. It says the CPS's own core of prosecutors is providing "an excellent level of representation in court".

Nevertheless, the Criminal Bar Association says that it is barristers who "are at the sharp end of presenting the prosecution case in court".

They "are in the best position to know what omissions and errors they succeed in disguising (in addition to those which surface) and how narrowly real disasters are sometimes avoided".

The opinions of barristers surveyed are "most disturbing not merely in their content but in the extent to which they are so widely held", the association says.

"Of the options given, all barring a small fraction settled for 'worse' than before 1985. The fraction settled for 'no different'".

Barristers welcomed the thinking behind the Crown Prosecution Service, however, and did say that a reputation

for greater independence from the police was growing.

Even so, the problems of the service were still extensive. Nearly 95 per cent of barristers polled answered unfavourably as to whether the standard of preparation of cases had fallen and identified a list of problems: failure to spot evidential problems; "embarrassing" applications for adjournments; failure to act on counsel's written advice; poor drafting of indictments.

It was a commonly held view, the association says, that Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) staff were so inexperienced that real problems were inevitable.

It was also commonly held that deterioration in prosecuting standards "is most noticeable in the largest bracket of prosecutions - what might loosely be called 'the lower end'".

There was a belief, the association says, that a less gloomy view would have come from outside London about the CPS in the regions.

The barristers also took the view that there had been a change in the way their role was regarded, with an "overwhelming view" that counsel was no longer free to exercise his discretion over the conduct of the case.

The most prevalent problems included resistance to counsel's view of the merits of a particular case in terms of a "local policy" adopted in relation to some kind of offence or method of disposal.

In separate evidence, the criminal law committee of the

Law Society says that the general view is that the CPS's own core of experienced prosecutors was providing "an excellent level of representation at court".

There was evidence that certain tribunals "remain hostile in principle to the introduction of the CPS", it says.

"Such unjustified intolerance should not reflect upon the steadily improving reputation of crown prosecutors throughout the country."

The Law Society says, however, that there are problems over the provision by police of adequate papers on time for cases to be presented at court.

Despite improvements, there were still pockets of inefficiency where there was inadequate advance information or criminal papers not served on time.

A stipendiary magistrate has criticized both the police and the Crown Prosecution Service.

Mr Derrick Fairclough, stipendiary magistrate for Manchester and a Recorder at Liverpool Crown Court, said yesterday: "Between them the police and CPS cannot ensure that antecedents are updated as a matter of routine."

In the new edition of the CPS Journal, Mr Fairclough says: "Hurried telephone inquiries to police headquarters do not necessarily produce the desired information."

Mr Fairclough says he was promised up-to-date antecedents when a new computer was introduced at Manchester, but records were still missing from antecedents.

## Veteran teddy bears await a good home

PETER TRENNOR



Some of the 75 elderly teddy bears to be auctioned at Christie's, London, today, with Miss Philippa Spurrier, Christie's teddy specialist.

## MoD to be sued over bomb test

By Kerry Gill

A former Royal Air Force electrician, who served on Christmas Island during nuclear tests in 1957, is to sue the Ministry of Defence after contracting leukaemia.

John Hall, aged 51, who spent four months on the Pacific island, believes his recently diagnosed condition is a direct result of being exposed to radiation during the tests.

His case is to be handled by Mr Mark Mildred, the lawyer involved in legal proceedings over the Zeebrugge and King's Cross disasters. The costs will be met by the British Nuclear Test Veterans' Association.

Details of Mr Hall's action and the association's struggle to get compensation for victims are to be disclosed at a press conference in the House of Commons today.

The association has campaigned to make the Government recognize that its members were affected by exposure to radiation during nuclear tests in the late 1950s.

## Servant's kilt fetches £10,000

SALE ROOM  
by Sarah Jane Checkland  
Art Market Correspondent

The scarlet plaid kilt, tartan underpants and stockings once worn by Queen Victoria's faithful if notoriously charming servant John Brown sold for £10,120 at Sotheby's, London, yesterday.

They were bought by three men wearing similar Highland dress and representing the Scottish Tartan Museum at Comrie, Tayside.

After watching the sale of over 300 teddy bears, dolls and toys, their representative, the magnificently bearded Dr Gordon Teall of Teallah, took bidding to £3,000 above the upper estimate.

The most intriguing garment was Mr Brown's underpants, equipped with special back-flap and front fly. Dr Teall said: "Queen Victoria insisted that anyone who worked for her and wore a kilt should wear underpants. She was very particular because it can be very embarrassing when someone wearing a kilt sits down."

After Brown's death in the 1920s, a trunk of Highland dress was sent from Balmoral Castle to Edinburgh, with instructions that it should be disposed of, but not by auction. Yesterday's vendor in-

herited the clothes from his father, a bagpipe-maker who had been given the pick of the contents.

A crucified Marilyn Monroe is on offer at Art 90, the contemporary art fair that opened at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London, yesterday. Splayed on a background of red satin, and costing £2,200, she is a sculpture by Saskia de Boer, and a highlight at the Nicholas Treadwell Gallery stand.

Other attractions at the fair, which brings together the work of more than 200 artists, include bold landscape paintings by David Macfarlane, at £400 to £1,200, and large abstracts by Gail Dickerson, the young Royal College of Art graduate who has been chosen as the "Young Artist in Focus".

To encourage corporate buyers, the fair includes a view of the Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte collection, compiled by the accountancy firm over the past five years. Mr Phil Collins, the company's collector, said: "It is an alternative to the Saatchi approach. You don't have to spend a lot of money if you trust your judgement." Prices at the fair are mainly between £50 to £1,500, although a Francis Bacon will cost £40,000.

Christie's auctioned a selection of British decorative arts from the 18th century. Top price was £6,050 for a glass and forged iron console table by Danny Laine. An elegant welded steel "spine" chair by Andre du Breuil fetched £1,320, while a pair of candelabra forged from brass pipes and glass bottles by Tim Shaw sold for £2,090.

Sotheby's recorded a world record for Miles Birket Foster, the Victorian painter. His "The Swing", showing children playing on a tree, sold anonymously for £41,800 (estimate £15,000 to £25,000).

Bonhams dispersed the contents of the studio of the eccentric British artist Betty Swannick with great success. Her "Women preparing for a Banquet" fetched £8,250, while her "Leda and the Swan" went for £3,520.

## Stuntman awarded £251,000

A stuntman whose career was finished when harness wires broke during a simulated flight sequence on the film set of *Superman IV* was awarded damages of £251,148 in the High Court yesterday.

Mr John Lees, who suffered fractures to both heels and his left ankle in the 25th fall at Elstree Studios in 1986, said later he was disappointed with the award and that of costs against the producer, London Cannon Films.

Mr Lees, aged 47, of Moor End Farm, Norton, near Halifax, West Yorkshire, said he could no longer groom or ride his two horses.

Post mortem

A coroner at Ashington, Northumberland, ordered a new post mortem on the body of Mrs Doris Waldo, who drowned in a whirlpool bath in Portugal. Her husband, a police officer, was acquitted of murder by a Portuguese court.

Pensions libel

Mr Ted Barham, treasurer of the Greater London Pensioners' Association, and his wife, Alice, received unspecified libel damages in the High Court yesterday against the *Daily Mirror*, which said in an article that they were in favour of private pensions.

Knitwear loss

Up to 1,000 jobs could be at risk in the Paisley Hyster Group, one of Leicestershire's biggest knitwear firms, which announced yesterday that it had called in the receivers.

Nurse penalty

John Smith, of Dudley, West Midlands, a charge nurse, who was jailed for indecency with a sub-normal boy aged 12, was ordered to be struck off the nursing register yesterday.

PR resigns

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## Compensation changes will rule out 9,000 crime victims

By Quentin Cowdy, Home Affairs Correspondent

At least 9,000 victims of such crimes as mugging or aggravated burglary will be deprived of compensation this year because of a "streamlining" of the government-funded Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, it emerged yesterday.

Under the revised scheme, due to come into effect today, the minimum limit for compensation will be raised from £550 to £750. Other changes, though, will permit claims from victims previously excluded, such as train drivers who suffer shock after railway suicides and unmarried people whose partners are killed in violent crime.

The Home Office, which announced the changes in December, believes the moves will help to solve chronic delays in processing claims and concentrate resources on the most deserving cases. Some 96,000 cases are outstanding, a backlog of over two years' work.

The charity Victim Support, which strongly opposes the increase in the lower limit, said about one in three of those now eligible for compensation will be excluded.

That was confirmed by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, the scheme's administrator, which said that 37 per cent of the 38,830

payouts made in 1988-89 were under £800.

Miss Helen Reeves, the charity's director, said restricting eligibility to the scheme would undermine public confidence in it and do nothing to improve efficiency.

The move, she added, was particularly regrettable as many of the "lower limit" claims related to thefts, street robberies and muggings - crimes which were often not cleared up and caused widespread public fear and anger.

She said: "Compensation is an important way of acknowledging that such crime is not acceptable. The gesture is as important as the value of the money involved."

The charity said that the smallest payouts involved surprisingly vicious incidents.

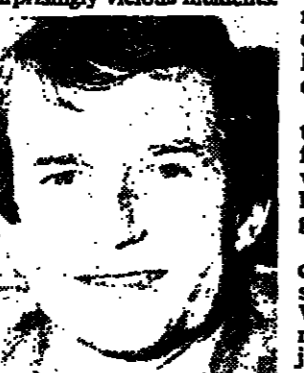
Recent examples included: a 22-year-old woman who received severe bruising after being thrown from her wheelchair by a burglar who held a cushion over his face in an apparent attempt to smother him (£600 compensation); six women social club workers held hostage at knifepoint during an armed robbery (£650 each); a young man slashed across the face with a broken glass in an unprovoked attack in a nightclub (£650).

Mr Barry Sheerman, a Labour home affairs spokesman, said the Government should have cut the payment threshold not increased it.

The change also encouraged victims to submit inflated claims. "It's disgraceful. In the name of efficiency the Government has squeezed out a large number of potential claimants."

He added: "This comes on top of changes introduced a few years ago which mean that victims who are unemployed have their benefits cut if they get compensation."

The scheme's other changes, described as a streamlining by Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, will allow the board's junior staff to deal with claims which are obviously ineligible and will restrict the number of cases referred to oral hearings.



Mr Sheerman: "Change will encourage inflated claims."

## Convictions prompt call for UDA ban

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

There were renewed calls yesterday for the "loyalist" paramilitary Ulster Defence Association to be banned after the jailing of four of its members for up to 10 years on charges of blackmailing and extortion.

Dr Brian Feeney, the North Belfast Social Democratic and Labour councillor, said the failure of the Government to outlaw the UDA gave the impression that crimes by "loyalists" were in some way less reprehensible than crimes by nationalists.

He said he was determined to persuade the Northern Ireland Office of what he called the "cowardice" of its position on the UDA, which amounted to an acceptance of the organization's public front

that it did not represent a criminal organization.

"The UDA is a criminal conspiracy," he said, "and any minister who has got any integrity should ban it." Dr Feeney said that the argument by the Northern Ireland Office that banning the UDA would simply drive it underground also applied to the Provisional IRA, which, by that logic, should also be legalized.

The UDA has never been banned since its foundation in 1971, in spite of its having been organized on military lines and its members having often incurred sentences for terrorist offences, including sectarian murder.

Mr John Cope, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office with responsibility for

security, was not prepared to discuss Dr Feeney's remarks. His office said the Government deplored criminal activity of whatever sort and reiterated that proscription of the UDA was constantly under review.

Dr Feeney's comments came after the jailing, by Belfast Crown Court, of four senior UDA men, including the organization's commander in south Belfast, after the men admitted blackmailing two Ulster building firms for nearly £40,000 over a five-year period.

John McDonald of Lockley Park, the south Belfast commander, and David "Artie" Fee of Chief Street in the Shankill Road, each received 10-year sentences.

Andy Aiken of Fourthriver Way and John Campbell of Denmark Street were each jailed for eight years.

The four men had pleaded guilty to a total of 60 offences committed between May 1983 and December 1988.

Their activities had been monitored by the RUC's anti-racketeering squad during a three-year operation.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in Northern Ireland said he was sent a file on the death of Seamus Duffy, aged 15, who was killed by a police plastic bullet in rioting last August, police sources said.

The move marks the culmination of an investigation led by a chief superintendent in the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

More stringent monitoring of marine life and tighter control over discharges of waste in the North Sea were called for yesterday by the Marine Forum for Environmental Issues.

The group is seeking action by the Government after analysing studies from 24 expert groups into the types of waste dumping and their impact on fisheries, seals and dolphins, birdlife and the marine plants and microscopic organisms that form the basis of the food chain.

The studies covered dis-

charges into the North Sea from rivers, ship and oil platform operations, dumping and dredging by vessels and contamination from airborne pollutants.

The forum's report, published yesterday, includes an investigation into the impact of sea level rises expected from global warming.

Presenting the findings to a meeting in London, held in conjunction with the Royal Geographical Society, Lord Cranbrook, chairman of the forum, said: "We must stop using the North Sea as if it was

a hole in the ground. The good neighbourly principle also applies because the North Sea does not belong to Britain."

He said there must be a halt to the disposal of injurious substances. But it was not possible to pursue a policy of zero discharges or to cease all economic activities in the North Sea.

The report prepared for the third International North Sea Conference, to be held at The Hague next month, concludes that a balance needs to be found to maintain essential ecological processes.

## MPs demand law against contamination of land

By Sheila Gann  
Political Reporter

The Government has been accused of failing to take action over poisoned industrial sites endangering public health and the environment.

The Commons environment committee found that many dangerous sites are left untouched for years, and that action is taken only when a planning application is made.

The criticisms, coming after a report saying that waste sites may be "a toxic time bomb", will embarrass Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment.

The report, published yesterday, says the Department of Environment gives too little weight to the problems of land contaminated by industrial processes, such as old gas works, oil

refineries and chemical works. "By defining contaminated land narrowly and solely in relation to end-use, the Department of the Environment may be underestimating a genuine environmental problem and misdirecting effort and resources."

The report adds: "There is land in the UK which is contaminated and a threat to health and the environment, both on site and in the surrounding area. The primary focus of central and local government activity must be upon land which is a hazard to health or the environment."

The MPs say Britain has been spared some of the worst effects of uncontrolled dumping. But there should be no complacency over the management of toxic waste.

They say the Department holds little information about polluted land,

and are concerned about the adequacy of its estimates. Their report also backs up other warnings about the shortage of pollution inspectors.

Among the recommendations are a law to prevent companies polluting the soil, and to force owners to disclose information about contamination of land when they sell it; local registers of contaminated sites, and new powers for the National Rivers Authority to scrutinize planning applications for poisoned sites.

Sir Hugh Rossi, chairman of the select committee on the environment, yesterday called for an end to the dispute over whether to build a long sea outfall at Morecambe Bay, Lancashire, to combat sewage problems on Britain's most polluted coastline (Mark Souther writes).

The North West Water Company is planning a three mile outfall costing £50 million at Fleetwood to solve pollution problems but opponents say that pumping untreated sewage into the Lune Deep, however far out, will damage the marine environment, and affect the jobs of fishermen.

Save Morecambe Bay Campaign, on one hand, and North West Water Company and Blackpool District Council, on the other, gave evidence to the committee yesterday. Sir Hugh described the stalemate between them as "a nonsense", although he emphasized that he was not biased for or against the outfall.

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House of Commons Environment Committee first report: Contaminated Land, Stationery Office, £11.50 net.

Photograph, page 10

## Green group calls for stricter control of North Sea dumping

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

More stringent monitoring of marine life and tighter control over discharges of waste in the North Sea were called for yesterday by the Marine Forum for Environmental Issues.

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NUT for homo

Consistency

Hunt for b 'a waste o

By Ray

Can you imagine a world where the only thing that matters is the number of people who are in it? That's the idea behind the 'NUT' (Number of Us Total) movement, which is gaining momentum in the UK. The movement is based on the idea that the only way to ensure the survival of the human race is to keep the population as low as possible. This means that anyone who has more than one child is a threat to the survival of the race. The movement is led by a group of people who are known as the 'NUT'ers. They are a mix of people from all walks of life, but they all share a common goal: to reduce the human population. They believe that the only way to do this is to encourage people to have as few children as possible. They also believe that people who have more than one child should be punished. The movement has gained a lot of media attention in recent years, and it is now one of the most controversial movements in the UK. Some people see it as a joke, while others see it as a serious threat to the future of the human race. The 'NUT'ers are not alone in their beliefs. There are many other groups and individuals who are concerned about the impact of population growth on the environment and the future of the human race. They are all working together to raise awareness of the issue and to encourage people to take action. The 'NUT' movement is just one of the many ways in which people are trying to make a difference. It is a movement that is based on a simple idea, but it has the potential to make a big impact. If enough people join the movement, it could lead to a significant reduction in the human population. This would be a good thing for the environment and for the future of the human race. The 'NUT' movement is a challenge to the way we think about population growth. It is a challenge that we need to take seriously. If we don't, we could be in a world where the only thing that matters is the number of people who are in it.

Vitamin pill cure for poor

Up to 1,000 jobs could be at risk in the Paisley Hyster Group, one of Leicestershire's biggest knitwear firms, which announced yesterday that it had called in the receivers.

Nurse penalty

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# NUT faces demand for debate on homosexual rights

By David Tytler, Education Editor

A one-day conference for lesbian and homosexual teachers has been demanded by left-wing members of Britain's largest classroom union. The call is likely to embarrass leaders of the National Union of Teachers anxious to present a more moderate image.

The union's branch in Islington, north London, has put down a motion for the annual conference in Bournemouth at Easter calling on the national executive to defend the rights of lesbians and homosexuals by the "positive representation of homosexuality".

In an attack on heterosexuals, the branch calls on the union to train members not to adopt "heterosexism" which discriminates against homosexuals. The union is asked to support homosexual teachers and to hold an "annual one-day conference exclusively on lesbian and gay issues in education".

A motion from central Nottinghamshire, Oxford, Hillingdon and Leeds says that the self-management of schools could result in the victimization of women, homosexual, black and dis-

abled teachers. The branches say that to protect them ways should be found to increase their number on the national executive. Regular information, including posters, should be sent to schools.

Teachers in Hackney, east London, want the union to campaign for the repeal of Clause 28 which prevents the active promotion of homosexuality by local authorities, saying that "every school contains a large number of pupils who identify themselves or who will come to identify themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual".

Their motion asks the union to "defend vigorously any members who may be victimized for constructive and truthful teaching about lesbian and gay sexuality and lifestyles".

Other motions condemn the Government's requirement that all state schools should have a daily Christian assembly, saying that it has led to demands, particularly from Muslims, for separate schools. Lambeth, Islington, and the Inner London Teachers' Association are asking that the union defends teachers who

are "victimized by practising anti-racist education".

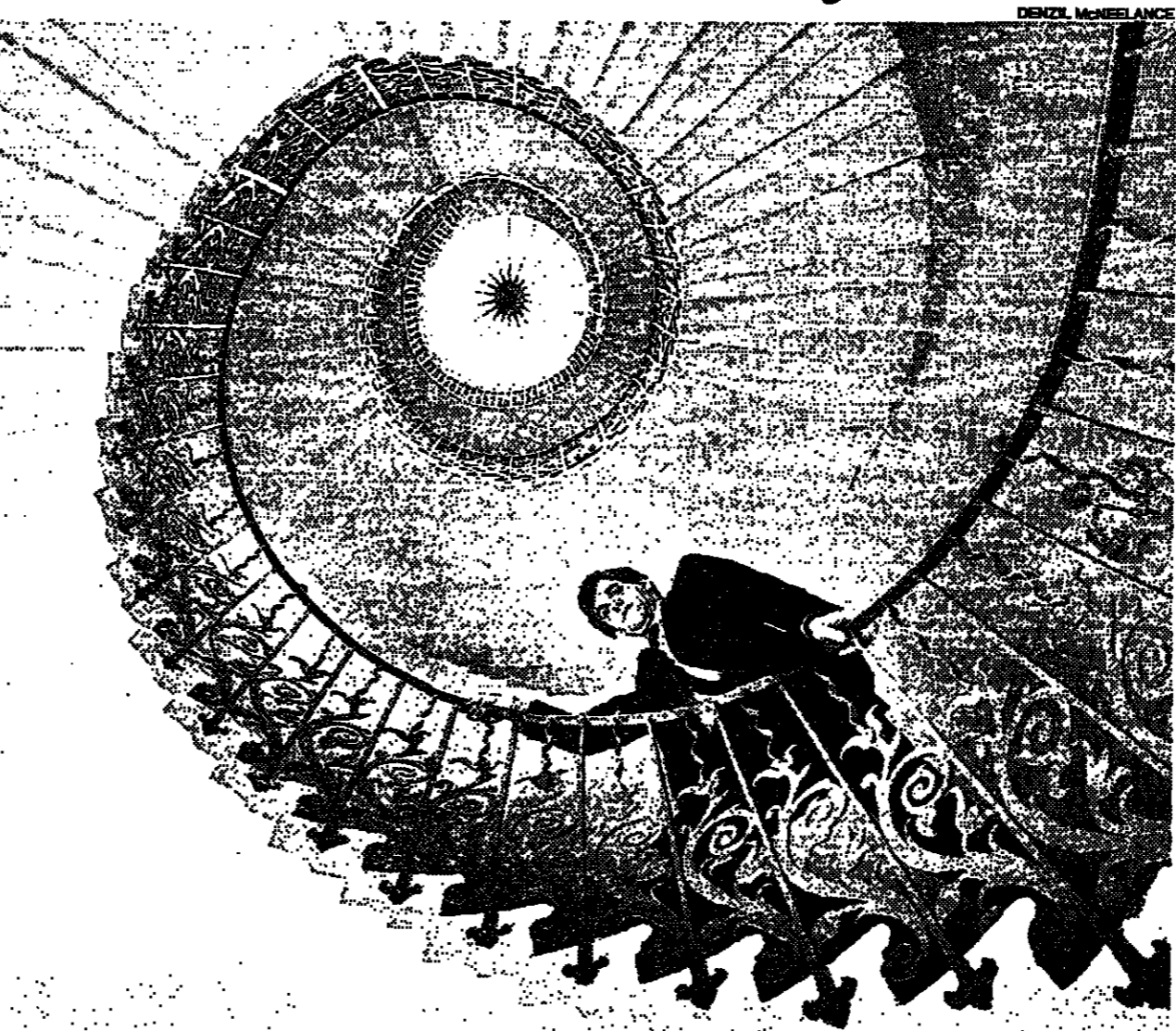
Branches are being asked to vote on which of the hundreds of motions that have been tabled should appear on the final agenda. The union's national executive is likely to intervene to prevent the more extreme being discussed.

Nearly half as many more parents are applying to send their children to schools that have opted out of local authority control than at the same time last year, according to figures released yesterday. At present there are 1.6 applications for every place.

Grant-maintained schools report that applications have risen by an average 45 per cent at the 32 schools which will be running this September. This time last year few schools knew whether they would be allowed to opt out and many of them were facing an uncertain future either through planned closure or amalgamation.

Scotland's colleges of education are to increase their intake for teacher training courses by 36 per cent in the next academic year, the Scottish Office said.

## Spiral eye view of a royal house



Mr Richard Ormond, of the National Maritime Museum, on the Tulip Staircase at the restored Queen's House, Greenwich.

## Council on the spot over exam mistake

The leader of a Manchester council yesterday publicly apologized for a printing error in an 11-plus examination paper as the authority faced legal action over the mistake.

The exam, sat by 2,600 Manchester children, was ruled invalid because some children were given 40 minutes to take the test and others 50 minutes.

The test was ruled invalid by the education committee last month. Labour members are convinced that, if the results are allowed to stand, aggrieved parents will complain to the Ombudsman and be prepared to go to court. The Tory group, which controls the council, believes that if a new exam is set, legal action will be taken by other parents.

The full council has already reversed the education committee's decision, but the meeting ran out of time before two Labour amendments could be put, and it will be resumed today.

Edinburgh University's Godfrey Thompson Unit, which set the test, has advised that the length of time allowed would have no effect on the children's scores, but Labour councillors are unconvinced.

Mr Colin Warbrick, the leader of the council, yesterday apologized publicly for the mistake.

## Consumer survey

### Hunt for bargains 'a waste of time'

By Ray Clancy

Clean floors, well-stocked shelves, friendly staff and ample car-parking space are what shoppers want rather than low prices, a consumer survey published today says.

Free shopping bags, environmentally friendly products, exotic produce and late opening are also important but shopping around for savings on well-known brands is usually a waste of time, the survey in *Which?* magazine, published by the Consumers' Association, says.

Every week more than £800 million is spent in Britain on groceries, meat and vegetables, of which 80 per cent goes to supermarkets rather than small shops. More shoppers are using the new supermarkets and hypermarkets which have hardware, gardening, linen and toy sections.

Shoppers also welcome trolley changing rooms, lavatories, delicatessen counters, fresh bread baked on the premises, fresh fish counters and seats.

About 75 per cent of shoppers have access to a car and many prefer to drive long distances to out-of-town stores rather than get caught in traffic jams and be unable to find a parking space in the high street.

Hunting for bargains is becoming a trend of the past. "If you are trying to save money on well-known brands you'll have to hunt high and low for a bargain," the magazine says. The survey found that out of 118 cans of baked beans 111 were priced at 26p.

It also found that prices in branches of a single supermarket chain were consistent, whether in Essex, Exeter and Edinburgh. The price of a

shopping basket of 18 everyday items at different supermarket chains varied from £21.38 in Sainsbury's to £22.99 in Safeway.

Cleanliness in supermarkets was the top priority, with an 86 per cent rating from 1,876 shoppers in the nationwide survey. Payment by credit card was the bottom priority, with a 10 per cent score.

A report on the big supermarket chains found:

● Asda had many staffed checkouts, express tills and ample car parking but did not do so well on providing a packing service.

● The Co-op was below average for parking facilities, staffed checkouts and express tills but customers liked stores near their homes.

● Gateway was below average for parking, knowledgeable staff, adequate checkouts and express tills.

● KwikSave was under par on parking, but had helpful, knowledgeable staff and a wide selection of goods and checkouts.

● Safeway had helpful, knowledgeable staff and many checkouts and packers.

● Sainsbury's was above average for a wide selection of products and many checkouts, express tills and packers.

● Tesco was above average for parking facilities and staffed checkouts.

● Waitrose had helpful, knowledgeable staff and adequate express tills and packers.

● The average cost of a wedding in Britain has risen to £6,769, according to a survey of 1,184 couples about to be married carried out by *You and Your Wedding* magazine (Robin Young writes).

## Vitamin pills no cure for poor diet

Children, pregnant women, the elderly and people on low incomes may not be getting enough vitamins and minerals from their diets, but taking supplement pills is not the answer, according to a report published today in *Which?* magazine (Ray Clancy writes).

Claims that vitamins can cure stress, perk a person up or improve a child's intelligence are misleading and the Government's recommended daily amounts for some vitamins and minerals needs to be reviewed, *Which?* says.

After testing a variety of multivitamins and mineral supplements, the report concludes that it makes more sense to improve or vary diet than to take pills.

"Food gives you a lot of other things you need like fibre and energy, which you won't get from vitamin pills," the report says.

It recommends steaming, not cooking, vegetables, because nutrients are destroyed by boiling and vitamin C dissolves in water.

It says bottles of milk should be put away as soon as possible because exposure to light destroys some vitamins; and recommends using left-over cooking water from vegetables and cooking juices from meat to make soup or gravy.

It says those who choose to take multivitamins should not exceed the dose recommended on the package. "Excessive

amounts of vitamins and minerals could be harmful."

● Quality programmes such as drama, plays and investigative journalism are likely to be replaced by cheap quiz shows and imported soap operas under the new Broadcasting Bill, according to research on the future of television published in *Which?* today.

"There is a danger that the Government's review of broadcasting may push broadcasting to hunt for safe mass-appeal programmes that attract the highest ratings and thus the most advertising revenue," the report says.

"This would lead to less change and experimentation in programming and less attention being paid to what viewers want to watch. The pressure in programme-making will be towards what is marketable, like the glossy transatlantic mini/mega series."

The report also warns against an increase in the sponsorship of programmes. "Sponsorship should be carefully controlled. Viewers should not be confused about what is being provided by the programme-maker and the sponsor."

The research also shows that viewers do not want to see more soap operas and comedies. They would rather have more recent films, nature programmes, adventure, leisure and police programmes and less sport, business and finance programmes.

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WE'RE FLYING BETTER THAN EVER



# Pretoria moves to shed its image as apartheid capital

From Ray Kennedy in Johannesburg and Gavin Bell in Cape Town

While the focus of political attention on South Africa has shifted to Cape Town, where President de Klerk will open Parliament tomorrow with a speech that may clearly outline plans for considerable reform of apartheid, the Pretoria city council has taken a bold decision.

After a heated debate on Tuesday night, it voted to open up its bus services, libraries, swimming pools and angling facilities to all races. It will also seek government permission to open up the central business district and a number of suburbs as "free trade areas".

Under the Group Areas Act, one of the main pillars of apartheid, blacks are officially barred from conducting business in most city and town centres. Re-zoning as a "free trade" area means that blacks can openly do business without fear of police harassment or, as many do already, use a token white front.

Mr Jannie van Zyl, a bus driver, was angry and adamant yesterday. "Kaffirs will not get into my bus," he said.

Mr van Zyl, aged 29, is a municipal bus driver in Pretoria, South Africa's administrative capital, and long considered a citadel of conservative Afrikanerdom. He drives his double-decker out of Church Square, dominated by a ponderous statue of Paul Kruger.

"If a kaffir tries to get on my bus, I'll throw him off very quickly," said Mr van Zyl. Half a dozen friends with him agreed unanimously.

Mr Sataar Cassim, chairman of the management committee in Laudium, a segregated Indian district of Pretoria, yesterday described the council's decision as "a bold step for Pretoria but a small step in what was happening in South Africa".

The dated rhetoric aside, the council's move is, in fact, courageous. The white sup-

remacist Conservative Party is strong in the city and in 1987 municipal elections gained 19 seats against the ruling National Party's 23. They probably would have won control if votes in some wards had not been split through the intervention of the extremist Herstigte Nasionale Party.

Tuesday night's vote was 22-19, and the Conservatives had a full house.

Meanwhile Johannesburg, which considers itself far more liberal, voted to declare the entire city a free trade area. Only the four Conservative councillors opposed the motion. It was announced that all the city's bus services would go multiracial within 10 days.

Perhaps more significant than the Pretoria and Johannesburg decisions was the vote by the council at Klerksdorp, a country town in the Western Transvaal about 60 miles from Johannesburg, to scrap racial trading bars. Rural white communities are considered to be the most strongly opposed to reform.

Four councillors voted against the proposal and four in favour. Mr Chris van Eeden, the chairman of the management committee, decided the issue with his casting vote.

He said the decision was based solely on a business and not a political point of view. "There is a very healthy relationship between all the communities of Klerksdorp," he said.

He added: "I believe the opening of the central business district to all races will cultivate that relationship."

In another sign of change in the political climate, President de Klerk yesterday ordered a judicial inquiry into the death of a black man, accused of involvement in guerrilla attacks, who was found hanged in his cell.

No such inquiry had been called after scores of previous incidents in which black ac-

tivists died while in police custody. According to local newspapers, the young man, Mr Clayton Sibole, was a former lover of the daughter of Nelson Mandela, the jailed black leader, and the father of her child.

Mr Sibole and four other suspected African National Congress guerrillas were arrested on Friday in Soweto, the vast black township outside Johannesburg. Police accused the group of killing 10 people, including two policemen, in attacks with hand grenades and automatic rifles over the past two years.

Police said Mr Sibole was found hanging from a shower pipe on Tuesday in his cell at John Vorster Square, Johannesburg's central police station. It said an investigation into the death had started and would include a post mortem by a state pathologist.

Mrs Audrey Coleman, a prominent human rights activist, welcomed Mr de Klerk's move, saying she could not recall such a swift and emphatic response to any of the scores of other deaths of detainees which she has monitored in recent years.

Local moves towards desegregation, amid increasing activism by the black nationalist movement, have left President de Klerk open to conflicting pressure from the white right wing.

Dr Andries Treurnicht, the leader of the official Opposition, the Conservative Party, told a miners' rally in Johannesburg: "We do not owe the ANC any say in our nation or our land."

The Afrikaner Resistance Movement warned that "all hell will break loose" if Mandela was freed. Mr Eugene Terre Blanche, its leader, evoked images of a nineteenth-century battle against the Zulus when he declared: "We shall fight until our land is as white as it was after Blood River."

# Calabria kidnap victim gains freedom

From Paul Bompard Rome

Church bells rang in Pavia yesterday to celebrate the release of Signor Cesare Casella, who was reunited with his family at the end of one of the longest-running Italian kidnapping sagas on record.

Signor Casella, aged 20, was freed in southern Italy on Tuesday night after being held for 742 days. Flown home in a military aircraft, he told reporters: "I am happy. It was hard. For two years I saw only people wearing hoods. Now I do not know what to say with all these people here."

One of the kidnappers had been kind. "He was a delinquent, too, but he treated me like a dog."

Signor Casella said he had thought he would be killed when his kidnappers moved him from his hide-out in the Aspromonte mountains of Calabria.

Instead, according to a senior police officer, they chained him to a pole from which he managed to free himself and seek help.

Signora Angela Casella, his mother, with whom he had a tearful reunion, became nationally known as "Mother Courage" for her defiance of the 'Ndrangheta, the Calabrian equivalent of the Mafia.

She chained herself to trees and slept in tents in Calabrian mountain towns. At least four other hostages are believed to be held by the same organization in the region.

Signor Casella, whose father has a Citroën dealership in Pavia, was seized there on January 18, 1988. The family paid a ransom of one billion lire (\$484,000) in August that year. The kidnappers then made further demands for money.

These were not met. The authorities last year froze the family's assets and sent hundreds of police into the Aspromonte region.

Kidnapping is still believed to be an important source of income for many small towns in Calabria, on the toe of the Italian peninsula, where unemployment is rife and the law is laid down by the 'Ndrangheta rather than local government.

Police estimate that Calabrian gangs are responsible for almost half the abductions in



A mother's joy: Signora Angela Casella in Pavia welcoming home her son, Cesare, held for two years by a kidnapping gang.

Italy. These days they work outside their poor southern region, a move that has more to do with lack of targets than with effective police work.

"There is practically no one left here worth kidnapping," a local builder said. According to a recent survey by a local magazine, Calabrian kidnappers now concentrate their efforts in towns round Milan. But, once kidnapped, victims are habitually hidden away in the Aspromonte.

More than 600 people have been kidnapped in Italy during the past 20 years, most of them in Lombardy.

While more efficient police work has helped diminish the incidence of kidnapping, a hard core of Calabrian kidnappers is still at work. Last year 10 people were kidnapped for ransom, there were 14 the year

before; five of the 24 victims are still in captivity.

Income from ransoms is estimated at about 200 billion lire a year. Much of it is reinvested in building developments around Aspromonte villages. One area - near Locri, renowned as a kidnap

● The family paid a ransom of one billion lire in 1988; more was asked for ●

ping centre - is shamelessly known as the Paul Getty village, after the kidnapping of Paul Getty III in 1973.

Victims may be fewer these days, but ransom demands have kept pace with inflation,

now averaging two billion lire (almost £1 million) and the average term of imprisonment is almost a year, even two years, compared to several months in the late 1970s when kidnappings were more frequent. Between 1977 and 1982 there were, on average, 40 to 50 a year, rather cheaper affairs costing ransom-payers several hundred millions of lire instead of several billion.

Dynamics of the average kidnapping have changed little over the years.

In the case of Signor Mirella Silocchi, kidnapped by bandits who invaded the family holiday house last July, ransom demands were backed up with a gruesome package sent to the family containing his hacked-off ear. Signor Dante Berardinelli, a Tuscan businessman, returned home from

captivity last year minus a piece of both ears.

There is a growing awareness that kidnapping is the kind of barbarous crime ill-befitting a country that aspires to fifth place in the world economy, one where average living standards are on a par with most First World nations. TV documentaries denounce the outrages and feature Aspromonte towns, such as San Luca, which supposedly live off ransom money and where, according to a recent commentary, 10 per cent of the population knows where Signor Casella was hidden and who his captors are but no one will talk.

There are plenty of voices - even in Calabria - raised against kidnapping, but the law of omertà still rules.

## WORLD ROUNDUP

### Heavy attack on Unita stronghold

Lisboa - Dr Jonas Savimbi, leader of the rebel Unita movement in Angola, cut short his scheduled eight-day "private" visit to Portugal and returned to Angola early yesterday, saying that heavy fighting between his forces and those of the MPLA Government made his presence imperative (Martha de la Cal writes). He also cancelled visits to Belgium, Germany and other European countries.

He said fighting was taking place near Caxambu Cubango and Mavinga in southern Angola, with the bombardment of Unita-held territory there by some 15 MKG fighters. A strong MPLA offensive in southern Angola, with the town of Mavinga as the main objective, began five weeks ago. The Angolan Army has reported a key breakthrough against rebels defending Mavinga, the Portuguese news agency Lusa said yesterday, claiming it had killed 500 Unita men.

### Witness in Barry deal

Washington - Mr James McWilliams, a city council employee and a key witness in the case, has agreed to cooperate with the federal investigation of Mr Marion Barry, significantly increasing the chances of Washington's Mayor being charged with perjury and obstruction of justice as well as of possessing cocaine (Martin Fletcher writes).

Mr McWilliams is the one man who could corroborate claims that Mr Barry smoked crack in a room in Washington's Ramada Inn on December 19, 1988. In court this week, as part of a plea-bargain deal with federal prosecutors, he pleaded guilty to helping obtain drugs on that date. He then made a two-hour private appearance in front of the grand jury which has been investigating Mr Barry's activities for the past 13 months. Mr Charles Lewis, a former friend of the Mayor's, has testified under oath that he smoked crack with Mr Barry at the Ramada Inn.

### China holds Catholics

Peking - A wave of arrests has swept the underground Roman Catholic Church in the past few months, reflecting increasing nervousness by the Chinese Government about the threat posed by illegal organizations (Catherine Sampson writes). While the arrests are all but impossible to confirm within China, well-informed church sources in Paris, the Vatican and Hong Kong say that as many as 32 Catholics, who refuse to join the officially sanctioned Patriotic Catholic Association and remain loyal to the Pope, have been arrested nationally in the past two months.

### Sri Lanka abductions

Colombo - Forty Muslims were reported abducted yesterday at Kalmunai, in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka, by the main Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (Vijitha Yapa writes). Tension was mounting between Tamils and Muslims, while about 200 armed Tigers were said to be surrounding the police station to prevent officers from leaving. The Tigers have taken control with the progressive withdrawal of the Indian Peace-Keeping Force from the province, which began last year.

### Hong Kong clash

Hong Kong (Reuters) - Fifteen Hong Kong prison officers and two Vietnamese were injured yesterday during the clearing of a camp for boat people where more than 100 inmates have staged a 12-day protest, a government spokesman said. The camp was due to be closed last week, but a group of 107 boat people, the remnants of 3,000 Vietnamese inmates, refused to move to another detention centre and demanded the return of their boats to sail on to Japan. "Non-cooperators kicked and pushed" the officers and tied themselves to fixtures with torn blankets.

### Palmer reshuffle

Wellington (Reuters) - A former New Zealand minister, sacked 14 months ago by Mr David Lange for disloyalty, re-enters his old Cabinet post in a reshuffle announced yesterday by Mr Geoffrey Palmer, the Prime Minister. Mr Palmer yesterday gave back to the State-owned Enterprises Richard Prebble gone back to new ministers voted into the Ministry as one of seven Labour Party MPs. The reshuffle may be Mr Palmer's last chance to improve Labour's dismal showing in opinion polls before elections this year.

## Repercussions of the Kashmir conflict

# Hindu hardliners urge crackdown on Muslims

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

Hindu hardliners are moving swiftly to capitalize on the anti-Muslim uprising in Muslim-majority Kashmir, where a state of emergency has been created a surly and doubtless temporary peace.

The real danger lies not in the threat of war with Pakistan, which almost certainly will not happen, but in the flames of Hindu-Muslim communalism that it could ignite across India.

Hindu extremists are now calling for an all-out offensive to round up Muslim guerrilla leaders in Kashmir. They describe the uprising not only as anti-government but, ominously, as "anti-Hindu".

Despite the hostile rhetoric between India and Pakistan in recent days - most of it for domestic consumption - nobody in the higher ranks of the Government in Delhi seriously believes that the two countries are heading for war. There have long been cross-border skirmishes.

Confrontation may result from a mass march into India by Kashmiris from the Pakistani side of the dividing line as a show of solidarity with their Muslim "brothers". In recent weeks there has been an

exodus of up to 10,000 Hindus from the valley, according to unofficial estimates.

India has substantially reinforced its military presence in the frontier zone, primarily in the belief that it may have to encounter masses of civilians.

Even if Pakistan did mount a military operation, it could hardly expect to rout South Asia's military superpower. Pakistan's security forces, in any case, are preoccupied covering the western border with Afghanistan. Pakistan faces grave security problems in Sind province, which the Army is watching with increased unease.

India's portrayal of Pakistan as instigator of the Kashmir troubles ignores the fact that the separatist movement has mass indigenous support. There is no great love for Pakistan: Kashmiris on the Indian side of the 1948 line of control are aware that joining Pakistan would mean flooding their valley with Pathans and Punjabi Muslims.

The causes of the Kashmir conflict are many: contempt for the corrupt National Conference, which has always been the only serious political force in the valley; the impact

of growing Islamic fundamentalism; the strong sense of political and social isolation from India; and the explosive combination of educated and unemployed youth.

Indian politicians have always shied away from Kashmir, since anybody challenging the towering dominance of the National Conference was



perceived almost as anti-Indian. Most alternative political groups were pro-Pakistan, such as the Plebiscite Front and the Awami Action Committee. The only plausible alternative to emerge was the Muslim United Front, although it was fundamentalist. It was crushed in rigged

state assembly elections in 1987. After that, any semblance of legitimate politics in the Kashmir valley died.

The National Conference has collapsed in disgrace and its leader, Dr Farooq Abdullah, is held up in Delhi. The Indian Government, desperately searching for a viable policy initiative, is exploring whether he and his party can be reshaped, repackaged and rehabilitated.

Hated though it certainly is, the National Conference is still the only political party to offer in the valley. If it did return, it would obviously not have to share power again with the Congress (I) party, which has no political base and no popular support in Kashmir.

The unnatural coalition was forced on Kashmir by Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, who wanted to make his presence felt there both for political and nostalgic reasons. His mother, Indira Gandhi, and grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru, were Kashmiri brahmins.

While Muslim countries continue to berate India for its handling of the Kashmir crisis, the 90 million-odd non-

Kashmiri Muslims of India have stayed quiet. They have learned over the past 43 years that there is safety in silence. They have never displayed an interest in the affairs of Kashmiri Muslims or in pan-Islamic politics.

Non-Kashmiri Muslims regard the current unprecedented separatist challenge with alarm. Their security inside India hangs by a perilously thin thread, as anti-Muslim riots during last November's general election demonstrated. They are thinly spread across India, a vulnerable minority that tries hard to be inconspicuous.

The right-wing Hindu party, the Bharatiya Janata Party, whose parliamentary support is vital to the survival of the National Front Government, has so far restrained itself over Kashmir. But its more vociferous sister party, the Bombay-based Shiv Sena, has demanded the formal imposition of martial law and pursuit of a hardline policy.

Kashmir is resented by many Hindus because it receives disproportionate outlays of central government money which, among other things, are used to subsidize

the cost of rice. To many, this amounts to pampering Muslims at the expense of Hindus.

Much of the money is diverted into officials' pockets, however, and the overall cost of living in Kashmir is substantially higher than in the rest of India, in part because of transport costs. Vegetables and meat, for example, are much more expensive. Poverty is therefore endemic in India's only "spoilt" state, it is often called - as it is in the Hindu heartland.

● SRINAGAR: Muslim secessionists traded gunfire with security forces yesterday as the authorities relaxed the curfew here in the summer capital of Kashmir, leaving four people wounded (AFP reports).

A police spokesman said a constable of the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force had been wounded by a sniper. Police and paramilitary troops patrolled the city as the authorities relaxed an indefinite curfew for 11 hours from 5am, but as news of the shooting spread shops that had reopened after several days brought down their shutters again.

## Beirut Christian factions battle to control enclave

From Juan Carlos Guncio, Beirut

The long-simmering struggle for control of Lebanon's Christian enclave exploded violently in the streets of east Beirut yesterday after General Aoun sent his troops to crush the powerful Phalangist "Lebanese Forces" militia of Mr Samir Geagea.

Christian army soldiers and their allies were locked in heavy fighting in at least four residential districts of east Beirut and in the northern fringes of the capital, ignoring desperate calls for a ceasefire by the Maronite Church. By evening, yardward shells of those battles began landing in Syrian-controlled West Beirut.

The third of shellfire echoed across the city as convoys of merchant ships hurriedly left Beirut port. Last night, there were no reliable casualty reports and Red Cross volunteers were too frightened to pick up the dead and wounded lying in the streets.

As the fighting raged outside, east Beirut residents watched the film *The Killing Fields* on the "Lebanese

Forces" television station. Last night, the Army appeared to have the upper hand and General Aoun was trying to play down the importance and magnitude of the confrontation by declaring that his soldiers had been ordered to "join their brothers in military barracks to avert bloodshed and contain the losses".

Speaking on the militia's "Free Lebanon" radio station,



General Aoun: Sought to play down scale of fighting.

Mr Geagea left no doubt that this may be the final battle for the Christian leadership and he is prepared to fight to the end. "We will not allow those blinded by power to slaughter the Lebanese Forces," Mr Geagea said. "Our patience cannot last forever."

Apart from a number of militia positions, units of the 20,000-strong Army loyal to the general took over a research centre known as "the house of the future" in Dbyeh, and the Casino du Liban - two key institutions in the LF's structure of political and economic power.

Armed with tanks, rocket guns and mobile field launchers, Mr Geagea's 10,000 militiamen could prove a most dangerous enemy. "I have ordered all the Lebanese Forces fighters to stay in their barracks and defend them," Mr Geagea said, although his men appeared to have been taking key military initiatives. The militia claimed it had captured the air force base of Halat, just north of Beirut.

## 'Couch potatoes' to be fed round-the-clock litigation

From James Bone, New York

America's growing population of television addicts - "couch potatoes", as they are known - which already supports *Weather Channel*, a 24-hour forecast service on a cable network, is about to have its endurance further tested by two new stations which intend to broadcast round-the-clock action from the courts.

Hoping to cash in on the present popularity of television *verité* - which has already brought viewers real-life police on the beat and will soon also offer firemen and hospital doctors - two companies are racing to start live cable broadcasts of real trials.

American Lawyer Media Limited Partnership, a partner of Time Warner Incorporated, the communications giant, is already promoting *American Lawyer Media Channel*, as its service is tentatively called, for an October launch, while Cablevision Systems Corporation plans to open its *In Court* channel in September.

Live courtroom coverage is now possible in 44 states in

the US, and has produced such media successes as last year's child abuse case in New York against Mr Joel Steinberg, who was convicted of killing his illegally adopted daughter in his Greenwich Village apartment.

Local stations ran hour after hour of live testimony from the Steinberg trial, apparently convincing programmers that the public has an appetite for real courtroom drama.

But the first syndicated TV programme using only material from real trials, Republic Pictures Corporation's half-hour *On Trial*, which was broadcast last year on 140 local stations covering 75 per cent of the country, did not achieve a second season.

Admitting that real trials are often dull, its producers said that the show could not attract more than about three-quarters of its required audience of 3.2 million households.

Mr Charles Larsen, the head of Republic's domestic television distribution, conceded that his company's condensa-

tion of taped trial coverage could not serve up so spicy a diet as such fictional series as *LA Law* or *People's Court*.

The new courtroom channels will try to break the monotony which characterizes the American legal system by providing commentary as though the trials were an Olympic event.

They also plan, during dull moments, to air short features and law-related news. For those who still cannot get enough, the *In Court* channel is considering screening films featuring fictional courtroom dramas at weekends.

But one problem which the new channels will face is that many of the most important, and interesting, trials in America, including the forthcoming cases against General Manuel Noriega, the former Panamanian leader, Mr Michael Milken, the junk-bond king, and Mrs Imelda Marcos, the former Philippines First Lady, are held in federal courts, from which cameras are barred.



COLLAPSE OF COMMUNISM

# Serbs serve ultimatum as Kosovo toll rises

From Dassa Trevisan  
Belgrade

Five ethnic Albanians were killed in clashes with police in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province yesterday, the eighth consecutive day of protests.

Tanjung said three people were killed in the town of Glogovac, and reporters on the scene said a fourth person had also been killed there. Yugoslav television said police shot dead a protester in the town of Stanovac.

Yugoslav media and reporters in Kosovo say that 26 people have been killed since Albanians took to the streets last week demanding political reforms, although Tanjung has reported only 15 deaths.

"It is feared that Kosovo is on the verge of a civil war," Tanjung said.

The latest violence came after thousands of Serbs demonstrated throughout the night in front of the Yugoslav federal parliament building in Belgrade demanding weapons. They also shouted abuse at the Slovene and Croatian leaders, whom Serbia is accusing of backing the Albanian rebellion.

In Titograd, the capital of Montenegro, thousands of demonstrators demanded that relations with Slovenia be broken off. They also demanded that an ultimatum be sent to the federal presidency to restore order using all means at its disposal, including armed force, within 48 hours.

The speakers insisted that, if the Yugoslav federal authorities were not capable of restoring peace within the given time, they should be forced to step down.

Amid cheers, the speakers



Opposing signals: A Yugoslav policeman, left, makes a victory sign after a clash with Albanian demonstrators in Kosovo, while protesters also claim success.

announced that volunteers were ready to move to the region in defence of the Serbian minority there and that an armed brigade stood by ready to move at a moment's notice.

Belgrade radio said that Yugoslavia stood on the brink of civil war, while the Serbian media kept whipping up emotions.

Every Albanian family in Kosovo possesses firearms, so do the Serbs.

Meanwhile, fierce fighting

erupted in the town of Podujevo after some 3,000 Albanians, including women with children in their arms, tried to push their way to the town centre but were dispersed by police with tear gas and baton charges.

In Lipjani protest marches were quickly dispersed, but after a few hours the protesters regrouped again. Cars and trains were being stoned by demonstrators and roads were being blocked.

Villages inhabited by Serbs

are guarded by police, while the villagers keep armed vigil. Albanian peasants have joined the protest and demonstrators are finding shelter in the wooded mountain villages where fierce fighting was reported yesterday.

The Kosovo region is becoming an open wound which threatens to bleed Yugoslavia to death.

The Albanian demonstrators are demanding democracy and a multi-party system, such as is being le-

galized in other parts of Yugoslavia. They are also demanding free elections.

The collapse of the Yugoslav communist party's congress and the disarray in the ranks of Yugoslavia's leading communists have provided an impetus for the Albanians in the region to seek equal status for themselves.

Given a choice, the Albanians would without any doubt vote for their own leaders, such as the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo,

which has increased its membership to almost 200,000 in less than a month.

However, such a possibility is for the time being excluded by Mr Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, who remains set against giving any political institutions to the Albanians.

Barred from participating in political life, the Albanians have no other option but to take to the streets and protest. In fact, they have been doing so ever since Serbia took over control of the

region. However, at this particular time they are playing into the hands of Mr Milosevic, whose popularity has been fading.

Serbian intellectuals have become disillusioned because of his reluctance to accept political pluralism, while Serbian nationalist extremists accuse him of not being firm enough in Kosovo.

The unrest in the region provides Mr Milosevic with a welcome opportunity to restore his popularity.

But in Slovenia the Kosovo repression has been condemned by all, including the local communist party leaders.

Slovenia and Croatia have called for an emergency meeting of the federal authorities, while in Kosovo Albanian militants are pledging to go on fighting to the last.

The view in the northern republics — shared by Western diplomats — is that Mr Milosevic's intransigence and reliance on repression only has thrown away any possibility of finding a way out of the Kosovo problem.

The Albanians feel that they are under Serbian occupation and, denied legal opposition and with an imposed leadership, they see their only chance in protest.

"If the Serbs do not relax their reign, Albanians would have no choice but to take to the hills," an Albanian dissident said.

"Unless Milosevic accepts a dialogue with true Albanian representatives who enjoy popular trust, Serbia — and with it Yugoslavia — will be thrown into bloody and protracted civil war, which it could never win," a Western diplomat predicted.

## Urgent surgery on Glomp

From A Correspondent  
Warsaw

Cardinal Jozef Glomp, the head of the Roman Catholic Church in Poland, was in a serious condition yesterday after two emergency operations to stop internal bleeding.

Mr Glomp, aged 61, was rushed from his palace to hospital on Tuesday morning, where an immediate operation was performed to stop gastro-intestinal bleeding.

A communiqué from the Polish Prime Minister's secretariat said that during the night he had had a second operation.

A medical source at the hospital said that the situation was critical overnight and that "the cardinal is far from stable". President Jaruzelski, who frequently met Cardinal Glomp during the recent turbulent years in Poland, visited him in hospital yesterday.

Cardinal Glomp has been head of the Polish Church since 1981 after the death of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński. He underwent successful surgery for a gall bladder problem two years ago.

His policy of moderation in dealing with the communists over the past eight years angered many militants in the Solidarity free trade union movement, but he had the support of Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader.

His patience and regular contacts with General Jaruzelski, the former communist party leader who is now the head of state, brought success for the Church, whose position in Poland was officially recognized last year.

## Cubans face the prickly realities of isolationism

By Charles Bremner

Beards, long the insignia of President Castro and his guerrilla comrades, have just made a comeback in Cuba. The reason, however, is not fashion but necessity.

A Soviet ship carrying 10.3 million "Sputnik" blades destined for Cuban chins failed to turn up in Havana in December, provoking a severe shortage and forcing many men to stop shaving or sharpen used blades. The ship has now sailed in but Señor Rigoberto Fernandez, the Deputy Trade Minister, soured the good news by going on the radio to say that he had no idea when the next load would come.

A lack of "Sputniks" is just one facet of the crisis now being endured in Cuba as President Castro's tropical island struggles to go it alone as a stronghold of orthodox Leninism. Like the waves smashing on to the Malecon, Havana's majestic old seafront, the upheaval in the communist world is pounding



Dr Castro: Confident he will weather the Gorbachev era, both the economy of Cuba and some of its leaders' convictions.

"We had a very difficult situation when we started our revolution, but this is the most difficult since then," says Señor José Antonio Arbesu, Cuba's chief representative in Washington. But foreign diplomats, as well as critical allies like Nicaragua's Sandinista leaders, believe it unlikely that President Castro is about to go the way of his former colleagues in Eastern Europe.

Although effectively a dictator, Fidel — as he is widely called — still enjoys great loyalty as the leader who threw out the Americans and gave his impoverished country a modicum of welfare as well as prestige in the world.

The "maximum leader" has just warned his people that what he calls the "atomization" of the socialist bloc

means that Cuba faces "total uncertainty" about its traditional economic ties with Moscow and Eastern Europe.

There is little meat, poultry, flour or milk available in Havana. In this season of traditional abundance in the Caribbean, fish has all but disappeared from the shops and fruit and vegetables are rarely to be seen. Today, the daily bread ration is being reduced from 7oz. to less than 6oz. per household and the price of a loaf in Havana boosted by 30 per cent. The Russians are to blame again, say the Cubans, because Soviet ships have failed for the first time in 20 years to deliver wheat and flour.

Apart from the diminution of Eastern bloc food and consumer goods on which Cuba depends, the Soviet Union has cut heavily the supplies of its cheap oil which fuels all the nation's vehicles and which Cuba traditionally also re-exports for hard currency.

Havana taxi drivers have been told to expect the worst. The other big Soviet subsidy — the high payment Moscow makes for Cuban sugar — is also on its way out, say Soviet officials.

More bad tidings came last month when the Comecon trading bloc decided to switch to hard-currency trading. Approximately 80 per cent of Cuba's exports now go to Eastern bloc countries under the Comecon barter system.

Yet another blow was dealt by the US invasion of Panama. Under General Manuel Noriega, Cuba set up a string of front companies to handle exports and imports, enabling Havana to side-step the US embargo.

The big question for President Castro's Latin sympathizers as well as his American foes is how long he can fend off the forces of change, as pledged in the big slogan now seen in Havana: "Cuba now rather sink in the sea than take down the banner of revolution and socialism".

"Fidel wants to do things his way and he is sure he will be proved right," says a Nicaraguan official. "He is also convinced that he will survive Gorbachev."

A US State Department expert agreed that Dr Castro was different from the communist leaders of Eastern Europe: "There isn't even graffiti on the walls. We don't think Cuba is threatened to the degree East Europe was."

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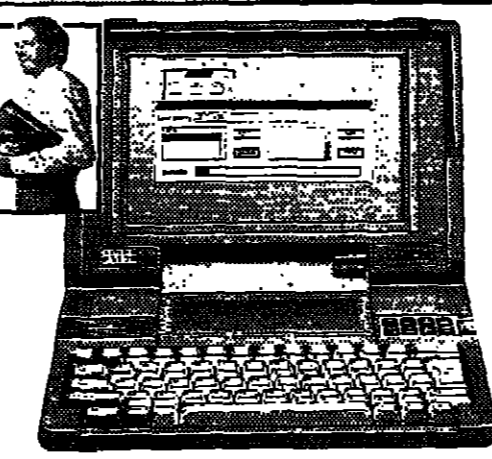
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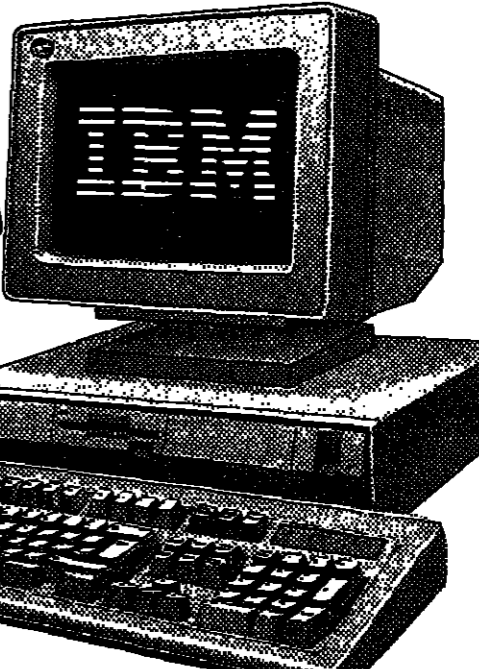


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January 31 1990

## PARLIAMENT

# Government will make statement on Wallace case

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence, will make a statement to the House of Commons tomorrow on the Wallace case.

Mr King said that the case was a serious matter and that the Government was taking it very seriously.

There were calls for the Prime Minister to answer questions on the matter.

The issue was raised by Dr John Cunningham, shadow Secretary of State for Defence, who said that an urgent statement was required on the scandal after the news that the House, and Mr King, had been misled in answers and correspondence.

It might be appropriate for Mr King to make the statement, but there were wider implications in this scandal than solely matters of the Ministry of Defence.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, said that Mr King would make the statement.

Mr Tony Benn (Chesham, Lab) said that after 20 years of disinformation the Government had now admitted for the first time that it had occurred.

This had branded and blackened the reputation of Mr Edward Heath, Dr David Owen,

## DEFENCE

Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, Mr Stanley Orme, Mr Denis Healey and Mr Merlyn Rees. It was a constitutional issue.

Colin Wallace should be brought to a committee in Parliament — as Colonel Oliver North had before Congress — free from the threat of prosecution under the new official secrets legislation.

Mr Merlyn Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab) said that there were implications for the Northern Ireland Office and other government departments. Other secretaries of state should be present during the statement.

Mr Jonathan Aitken (Thanet South, C) said that the Prime Minister's press secretary had indicated that it was possible that she might have been misled by a previous statement made by civil servants to her, as a result of which a parliamentary answer had been given.

If that was correct and if the security services were involved, that would not be a matter for the Secretary of State for Defence, who had no ministerial responsibility for the security services.

If a wrong parliamentary answer had been given by the Prime Minister, it would not be within the ambit of the Ministry

of Defence that the statement be made. Wider constitutional issues were involved. Would the Leader of the House consider whether different ministers should take part?

Mr Ken Livingstone (Brent East, Lab) said that he had received a letter from the Under Secretary of State for Defence, which admitted that allegations he had made relating to official documents about the use of army officers to plant hoax bombs were true.

The statement proposed was not good enough. He had raised the issue with the Prime Minister and had received denials from her.

"I know from my own research that an entire dossier relating every one of these allegations was delivered on behalf of Colin Wallace to the Prime Minister in November 1984."

The Prime Minister should come before the House to answer questions "because she is the main beneficiary of this treason and she is the main architect."

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill): He must not make allegations of that kind.

Mr Michael Marshall (Arun, C) said that he had been asking questions for seven years on behalf of Mr Wallace who was one of his constituents. It was essential to have the statement from the Ministry of Defence before considering other matters.



Mr John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office, with Mrs Shahida Nazai and her baby, Hina, at the Home Office in London yesterday. Mr Patten was beginning a series of meetings with Muslims living in the United Kingdom.

## Liberal Democrat motion

## Tories and Labour 'wrong on Europe'

The Conservative and Labour parties were both severely criticised for their attitude to Europe by Mr Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats.

He called for more power for the European Parliament and less for the Eurocrats in Brussels. A European central bank, he said, would prevent the sticky hands of Conservatives and Labour ministers manipulating the economy to win votes.

Mr Ashdown said that there was a serious split inside the Conservative Party and the Cabinet over the future of the European Community and developments in Eastern Europe.

He moved a Liberal Democrat motion demanding a monetary union in Europe, proposed by the Delors report, not all of which they agreed with. Liberal Democrats had no difficulty accepting the concept of a central bank, one that was organised along the lines of the Bundesbank. But the United Kingdom had not used their substantial resources to help the European Central Bank.

They were opposed because they would do anything to maintain for themselves the power to fiddle the economy to win votes. The Prime Minister's capacity to detach the economy from the last election. They had nothing to fear from the

1992 would decide whether this country prospered or declined. We must join in the emerging European unity and closer integration as the only way to protect long-term interests. It was the attitude of the Government and the Labour Party towards the new Europe that marked them as the parties of the past rather than of the future.

There had to be a new distribution of power. The Liberal Democrats were not in favour of a new distribution. They should strengthen the powers of the European Parliament instead of giving more power to the Eurocrats in Brussels or to the Council of Ministers.

A central bank was a key issue in economic monetary union in Europe, proposed by the Delors report, not all of which they agreed with.

Liberal Democrats had no difficulty accepting the concept of a central bank, one that was organised along the lines of the Bundesbank. But the United Kingdom had not used their substantial resources to help the European Central Bank.

They were opposed because they would do anything to maintain for themselves the power to fiddle the economy to win votes. The Prime Minister's capacity to detach the economy from the last election. They had nothing to fear from the

concept of a central bank if it kept politicians' sticky hands off the controls of the economy to win votes when a price had to be paid later.

There was a severe danger that Britain would be left isolated in the process of economic union and a risk that the other 11 countries would go ahead without her.

Labour had found something in Europe it could agree with: the social charter. But they must not allow it to take them back to the days of a corporatist state.

Those like the Prime Minister, who believed this moment in Europe was a time to backtrack, were both unwise and dangerous.

No other nation took the same view as the Prime Minister that the time was right to halt the process of integration. The argument about whether to widen or deepen the Community was nonsense. The two were complementary.

Those escaping from the East did not say that they wanted Conservatism or Thatcherism. The words on their lips were "liberal" and "democracy". They wanted a system of politics that valued human rights, community and representative government.

With the huge opportunities came immense dangers. It was time for pragmatism, not grand designs. The people of Europe for 40 years had been kept by two standing armies on the

brink of war. Work must now start to establish a new shape for Europe, which would probably not include the stationing of US or Soviet troops there. The task ahead was the redrafting of the collective security of Europe.

But that must not include the precipitate dismantling of Nato or the Warsaw Pact. This was not a time for unilateral action but for working with European partners. In the transition phase at least the structures of the Warsaw Pact and Nato would be vital. They would be the medium through which agreement would have to be reached. Their early and precipitate dismantling would be very destabilising.

Mr Francis Maude, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said that the Government had no quarrel with the motion.

The epic phase of the revolution in Eastern Europe was probably complete. Democracy could not be created overnight. What was needed was the recreation of civil society. Eastern Europe wanted capitalism. But market economies went hand in hand with democracy.

Fundamental would be to give free rein to the law of supply and demand. There must be a legal framework for investment, bankers operating under commercial criteria. They would need lawyers, accountants and entrepreneurs.

## Boost for training plan

The response from business leaders to the new Training and Enterprise Councils had been magnificent and the national network is expected to be completed well ahead of schedule, Lord Strathclyde, Secretary of State for Employment, told the House of Lords. Already 55 of the 80 councils have been set up.

He was speaking in a debate opened for the Labour opposition by Lord Hattersley, who said that the Government's plan for training expenditure, had taken leave of its senses.

He feared the emergence of a "cult of mediocrity". While they must press for greater efficiency in the use of existing resources, they could not get far without committing a great deal more.

Over the next decade, education expenditure had fallen,

relative to total public expenditure and gross domestic product.

"We are getting education on the cheap, on the backs of our teachers. No one can be happy with the lack of provision of up-to-date school books, or with the poor state of the libraries."

Public funds were being committed to the City Technology Colleges when neighbouring schools were badly neglected.

The Government did not care for universities and was unappreciative of the contributions of great academics. If the public was once persuaded to settle for mediocrity it would be hard, if not impossible, to restore the old standards.

Lord Strathclyde said that there had never been a time when education had been more central to the

continued economic success of the country.

"Competitors in the developing nations will continue to have a plentiful supply of cheap labour. We cannot compete on their terms."

"Our continued prosperity depends on us becoming more and more an economy of high productivity, high skills and high wages — but only if they are earned. The alternative is low productivity, low skills and high unemployment."

Each of the Training and Enterprise Councils would have the freedom and resources — on average about £20 million a year — to shape training provision and to develop growth services to local needs.

## Soccer solution 'must not be imposed'

The following report of a Commons debate on the Taylor report on the Hillsborough football disaster appeared in later editions yesterday.

Mr Roy Hattersley, opening the debate, supported the idea of all-seater stadiums, but said that the Government could not impose them and must consult fully. The Home Secretary and the Government had to show a spirit of co-operation.

"If progress is to be made to all-seater stadiums, the Government has to take the game with it rather than attempt to impose it will on it," he said. "It is important the opportunity Taylor provides is not missed by arbitrary and authoritarian action."

Mr David Waddington, Home Secretary, said that the Government was determined to see a great change in the way the football was managed and a vast improvement in the way that clubs treated their customers.

Mr Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, moved a motion welcoming the report of Lord Justice Taylor and his basis for recommendations to the organization of football, urging discussions with clubs and supporters about the cost and advisability of all-seater grounds, and calling for a reduction in the pools betting levy to its pre-1982 level to pay for improved ground facilities.

He said that the proposals for a membership-card scheme had been a diversion that delayed real progress on improvements for two years. Labour



Mr Hattersley: Arbitrary and authoritarian action will not help.

would support a more vigorous use of evidence, were divided on whether the football was managed and a vast improvement in the way that clubs treated their customers.

There was a desperate need for an improvement in the organization of football, and of the grounds in which the game was played. Was the Government prepared to assist in making that progress, or would it prefer to strike

another tough posture, to cover its embarrassment over the identity-card fiasco?

He would be prepared to see football clubs go bankrupt and the game changed out of all recognition, if that was the only way of protecting lives, avoiding injury and preventing hooliganism. But that would not just be achieved by the Government's announcing that all football grounds must introduce seats within 10 years.

"I have no wish to stand on the terraces any more," he said. "I am passionately enthusiastic for a seat to be similarly available to everybody who wants it, but there are a substantial number of law-abiding supporters who prefer to stand. They should be encouraged to stand. The police regard standing in seats as a far greater threat to safety, to order and to good conduct of the game than standing on terraces."

"I believe the sensible conversion of football grounds into 100 per cent seating is in the long run right and it is a good idea to encourage it. It is spreading out of that process. He added: "But also I believe nothing but harm can come from arbitrary and authoritarian edicts which will offend supporters and destroy a vital part of the game."

Mr Waddington said that the Opposition's response was a "confident and nothing short of pathetic. If what Mr Hattersley had said was the authentic face of the Labour Party, the world could see it as a party for whom no problem

was so grave that it could not be dodged. Taylor had made the advisability of all-seater grounds clear, but Mr Hattersley merely urged clubs to ask themselves whether, even now, they needed to take action, or whether they should hold out the begging bowl to the taxpayer."

He did not say that there was not a case for more money to go into the game from the pools promoters, but a change in tax which benefited pools promoters would not necessarily benefit football. The £18 million from the pools promoters and the £75 million which the Football Trust had promised over the next 10 years.

Mr Tom Pender (Stalybridge and Hyde, Lab), chairman of the all-party football committee, said that the Government should bring forward a Green Paper as a basis of discussion. The Taylor report would be pie in the sky unless the Government recognized the urgent need for a cash injection.

Mr Denis Howell, Opposition spokesman on sports, said that the Government should reduce the 42.5p in the pound it took from the football pools to offset the cost of ground improvements. Mr Colin Moynihan, Minister for Sport, said that the proposal for a membership scheme would be "put on the back burner". The problem of football hooliganism had not gone away and there was a national membership scheme still available.

The motion was rejected by 277 votes to 210 — Government majority, 67.

## Tax increase 'less than predicted'

Increases in the community charge in Scotland for the coming financial year were less than many local authorities had predicted, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, said at question time.

Increases would have been even less, he said, if many Labour-controlled local authorities had not used their substantial grants to increase spending rather than to reduce the charge.

He added that Labour authorities appeared incapable of maintaining services without increases in local taxation, unlike non-socialist authorities, which seemed able to maintain services by better management and better value for money.

He was responding to Sir David Steel (West Lothian, Lib Dem), who had said that the average Scottish poll tax would rise by 9.1 per cent in view of that, how would the Government maintain to pensioners and ambulance men that the cost of living was 6.5 per cent?

Mr Dennis Canavan (Falkirk West, Lab) said that in some authorities the poll tax would be

## SCOTLAND

more than £400. Even with maximum rebate, people on social security and students who might have no grants would be expected to pay £100. "Is it any wonder that at least 500,000 people are refusing to pay?"

Mr Rifkind said that Mr Canavan's sympathy for those on low incomes would be more impressive if he, on a very substantial income, were prepared to pay the tax.

During later questions, Mr Richard Douglas (Dumfriesshire, Lab) said that no matter how much the Government tried to tinker with the poll tax, it represented an onerous and unfair burden on poorer people.

As they were in the season of Robert Burns, he would paraphrase the great man: "They'd break our backs for Maggie's tax, such a parcel of rogues in a nation."

Amid laughter, Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Under Secretary of State for Scotland, commented: "Robert Burns himself was an excise man and knew all about tax."

## Gallows is still being tested

The only gallows left in Britain at Wandsworth Prison, London — last used on September 8, 1961, is still examined and tested every six months, Mr John Patten, Minister of State, Home Office, said in a Commons written reply.

The testing was undertaken by checking the equipment to see that it functioned correctly. He said that the death penalty was still available for offences of treason, piracy with violence, and certain treasonable and continuous offences, re-enacted under the Armed Forces Act, 1971.

## Inexperienced drivers

A Bill to stop newly qualified drivers from driving cars of more than 1,000cc for 12 months after passing their test was introduced in the Commons.

Mr Simon Burns (Chesham, C) said that the newly qualified drivers Bill would oblige such drivers to display a plate showing their inexperience and restrict the number of passengers they could carry to two.

## NHS cash for Scotland

Health service spending last year, compared to £205 in 1979, a rise of 34 per cent in real terms, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, said at question time.

In the same period, the number of in-patients being treated was up by more than 20 per cent, out-patients, 12 per cent, and day patients, 119 per cent, he said.

## Development budget

Next year's budget for the Scottish Development Agency would be £180 million, the largest it had ever had, Mr Ian Lang, Minister of State for Scotland, said during Scottish questions.

## Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Northern Ireland; Prime Minister. Statement by Secretary of State for Defence on disinformation in Northern Ireland. Debate on Commons procedure. Private Bills.

## Warning for Scots taxpayers

Taxpayers in Scotland were warned by the Secretary of State at question time that devolution of power to an assembly in Edinburgh would lead to a sharp increase in income tax simply to keep public spending programmes at their present level.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind told the House that the current level of public expenditure per capita in Scotland was £1,771 and by 1992 it was expected to be £2,047.

Sir Nicholas Fairbairn (Perth and Kinross, C) said that he was no opportunist to remind the people who live in Scotland, of whatever race, that they benefit to an extent that nobody else does in the United Kingdom in all programmes of expenditure, and that if they were to consider anything so foolish as a socialist government, convention, assembly or independence, they would be deprived of a level of living which we, uniquely, have in Western Europe?

Mr Rifkind said that he agreed with the sentiment behind the question, but it was not entirely correct because the level of expenditure in Northern Ireland was actually higher than in Scotland. It was correct that public expenditure in Scotland was considerably higher, per capita, than England or Wales.

## MPs want tax aid for part-time work

By Sheila Gann Political Reporter

A higher status should be given to part-time workers, who are usually women, with better tax and pension provisions, the Commons employment committee recommended yesterday.

It said that the poor image of part-time work is unnecessary and undesirable, encouraging a prejudice in favour of full-time employment.

However, the report stops short of recommending the extension of statutory employment rights to part-time workers.

The cross-party committee and the witnesses who gave evidence, were divided on whether the law should be changed.

"There are thus those who believe that the legislative framework should remain unaltered and that market forces mean that employers who need labour will increasingly offer their part-time workers the same terms and conditions as full-time workers," the report says.

One member, Mr Greville Janner, Labour MP for Leicester West, deplored the absence of recommendations to extend the protection given to part-time employees. He said that almost alone in Europe we treated part-time employees as second-class

## EMPLOYMENT

workers. He added: "It is outrageous that a considerable proportion of our work force is unprotected against unfair dismissal, has no minimum redundancy rights, and no maternity leave."

Mr Ron Leighton, the Labour chairman, said that recommendations to change the law to protect part-time workers were deliberately left out by the committee.

"It was perfectly plain from our discussions that there was a fundamental division within the committee and we thought it was sensible to say so."

More than five million people now work part time, mostly women in low-paid unprotected jobs. The report called for a more positive attitude, particularly from the Department of Employment, to the benefits of flexible working hours and away from the rigidity of the present system.

With the shortage of skilled labour, there needed to be a shift in the economy towards different patterns of working such as job-sharing.

House of Commons Employment Committee Second Report: Part-time work (Stationery Office, £5.60).

## Labour campaigns for rebates

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Labour Party launched a campaign yesterday to protect local authorities from the "poll tax."

It published moves designed to ensure that everyone entitled to community charges rebates receives them.

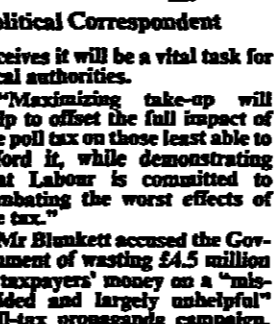
Mr Bryan Gould, shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, told a press conference at Westminster that the poll tax was anathema to Labour. But the party had a duty to do all it could to protect people against "this very unfair and damaging tax."

A campaigning document published by Mr Gould and Mr David Blunkett, the local government spokesman, said: "Ensuring that everyone entitled to a poll tax rebate claims and receives it will be a vital task for local authorities."

"Maximising take-up will help to offset the full impact of the poll tax on those least able to afford it, while demonstrating that Labour is committed to combating the worst effects of the tax."

Mr Blunkett accused the Government of wasting £4.5 million of taxpayers' money on a "misguided and largely unhelpful" poll-tax propaganda campaign. It had confused the public and added to the burden of already overstretched councils.

Evidence from around the country showed that the campaign had failed to have any real impact on the take-up of benefits. The money could have been used more wisely and effectively



Mr Gould: Party's duty to protect people

if it had been made available to local councils and advice agencies who knew their communities.

Labour has produced an action checklist for its councillors urging them to distribute leaflets to residents and advertise the existence of rebates in local press and radio and to provide telephone hot-lines and posters to streamline the arrangements for claiming rebates; and to encourage early applications before the poll tax replaces domestic rates on April 1.

It also advises the appointment of a rebate liaison officer to ensure co-operation between councils and the Department of Social Security, and suggests that authorities should set targets for levels of take-up.

It calls for the promotion of the take-up of transitional relief particularly for non-ratepayers. Labour wants councillors to use the action pack during the rebate campaign from February 5 to 11.



Mr Gould: Party's duty to protect people

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## Britain 'in peril of being marginalized in 1992'

Britain is in danger of being marginalized in the run-up to 1992 and is technologically backward according to a confidential report prepared for the European Commission (Nigel Williamson writes).

The report, which was disclosed by the Labour Party at a press conference at Westminster yesterday, compares the readiness of different regions for 1992 and places Britain, with Spain, firmly at the bottom of Europe's technology and training league.

It also declares itself pessimistic about

Britain's likely performance after 1992 and finds that British income per head is a fifth below the European average.

The report was prepared by the University of Louvain, further highlights technological backwardness in Britain, which it says would lead to low growth potential, and finds "training not in touch with technical developments."

Under-investment in transport and infrastructure, it adds, will lead to British regions being marginalized.

The report, which looked specifically at

Strathclyde and South Yorkshire, concludes: "The differences in technological capabilities stem [partly] from a reluctance to invest in research and development."

Mr Gordon Brown, Labour's trade and industry spokesman, wrote to Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State, yesterday, asking what he proposes to do about the report's "grim conclusions". Mr Brown demonstrates the absurdity of Tuesday's announcement of further reductions in the industry budget.

سلا من الأصل

# New referee for a troubled game

## THE TIMES PROFILE

ARTHUR SANDFORD

Until yesterday, there was a sign proclaiming "Blessed are the Peacemakers" over the door leading into the chief executive's office in Nottingham County Hall. But Arthur Sandford has taken it with him to his new post as chief executive of England's Football League, which he takes up today.

It is debatable how appropriate the motto is for anyone taking up such a job only three days after the publication of the Taylor report into last year's Hillsborough tragedy. If the game's first reaction to the report's disapproval of the Government's ID card scheme was euphoric, a closer look brought the realization that the whole basis of professional football in this country was under threat.

The report leaves football or, more realistically, the 92 clubs for which Sandford will be responsible, facing the task of finding an estimated £130 million to make the improvements necessary to turn decaying 19th-century structures into safe all-seater stadiums fit for the 21st century.

And that is only Sandford's first problem. Hooliganism is, at best, under control, rather than conquered. The English clubs' continuing exclusion from European competition, a problem whose resolution may require the Government's active goodwill — and there is no sign of that in the offing — is a running sore on the body of the domestic game, and preparing for 1992 is becoming a pressing need.

In itself that list would be formidable, were the league a united body. Notoriously it is not. Quarrels over money between the small group of rich clubs and the rest are a constant factor, leading to continual threats of a break-away "Super League".

Even Sandford's appointment,

although finally unanimous, took months of public bickering which at times threatened the survival of Bill Fox, the league president, to whom Sandford will be responsible.

Many people surveying Sandford's inheritance would decide that a capacity for knocking heads together might be of more use than an ability to make peace. Sandford has retorted that "Blessed are the Peacemakers" does not mean "Blessed are the Compromisers", and his close associates are in no doubt that behind the slightly worried expression there is a manager of high calibre.

He has the classic background for a local government officer, and indeed football league administrator — the bright, working class grammar school boy. Sandford, the son of a Lancashire shuttle-maker, passed the 11-plus to go to Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn, one of the North's outstanding grammar schools. It was — and is — a famous soccer school, but Sandford's main claim to sporting fame in his schooldays was as a runner when he was 15 he won the Lancashire junior half-mile championship. But his background made an interest in football almost obligatory.

There is a photograph of Sandford, at the age of six or seven, dressed as the mascot for Blackburn St Matthews, his uncle Harry's church team. Along with many of his peers he stood behind the goal at Ewood Park to watch Blackburn Rovers, the local club, which was then in the first division. A little later he played club cricket in the same team as Bryan Douglas, Rovers' international winger.

He took up refereeing as a way of keeping fit, and that brought him his only other official position in football — secretary of Blackburn Referees Society. It clearly



caught his fancy, and he refereed in the Football Combination, composed of league clubs' second teams, and reached the football league list as a linesman from 1974 to 1977.

After QEGS he went on to the University of London to read law, graduating in 1962. He returned to the north-west, to Preston, where he was articled to the town clerk, and stayed for three years, before moving to Hampshire County Council as local government began to change course. It was the era of T. Dan Smith and big developments by local government. Hampshire was not the north-east, but it was also infected

by the more aggressive approach of the new wave of local government officers, and Sandford played his part in the development of new towns, as well as advocating the building of the M27.

In 1970 he moved to Nottinghamshire. He was clearly marked out as a high flyer, and in 1978 he became the youngest ever county council chief executive when he was appointed by Nottinghamshire — a promotion that ended his refereeing career.

But he retained his interest in football. Both the Nottingham clubs, County and Forest — where he was a regular spectator — found

him helpful over a range of matters, and he was a frequent guest on Nottingham Forest's trips abroad for European matches. When he argues passionately for the return of English clubs to Europe, which he regards as one of his most important tasks, he speaks from personal knowledge.

He showed, in local government, the fine political touch necessary in a council in which power was evenly balanced. He worked successfully with both Labour and Conservative council leaders, and his political skills enabled the council to surmount intense local divisions caused by the miners' strike.

**BIOGRAPHY**  
1941: Born East Lancashire  
1962: Attended Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn  
1969-72: Studied law at the University of London  
1972: Articled to Preston Town Clerk  
1973: Married Kathleen (two daughters)  
1976: Joined Hampshire County Council as legal officer  
1978: Joined Nottinghamshire County Council  
1978: Appointed Chief Executive Nottinghamshire County Council  
1988: October 31, appointed chief executive of the Football League

Those skills were in the local government tradition, but unlike the old town clerk, the new chief executive saw his role as not just carrying out his councillors' wishes, but setting their agenda and being an active manager rather than a reactive one.

He is respected in Whitehall and has a reputation as a lobbyist, skills which will be undoubted assets if football is going to persuade the Government to unband and give financial support, or help the clubs return to European competition.

His various staffs have liked and respected him, and that should not change. He inherits a smooth-running professional organization divided between the league headquarters at Lytham, Lancashire, and the commercial office in London which, after years of neglect, is beginning to put the game on a much sounder financial basis.

He is at ease in business, and has some experience as a fundraiser and financier. He played an important part in developing the National Water Sport Centre at Holme Pierrepont, Nottinghamshire, and oversaw the sale of local authority land. "Our land sales ran to £17 million, so I'm used to dealing with big numbers," he once remarked.

The recommendations of the Taylor report mean he is now going to have to get used to even bigger ones. Running a local government machine is not the same as running a high profile industry like football.

"Alan Hardaker came from local government too, you know," he is fond of saying, revealing a dry sense of humour which will be much tested in the months to come. Hardaker, the league secretary between 1957 and 1979, ran the league virtually as a dictator, and the mention of his name

might cause one or two potential miscreants to shudder.

There have been suggestions that Sandford was the choice of the big clubs because they believed an outsider would find the league's unwieldy structure unacceptable and recommend changes in their favour. His background, and his friends' testimony, suggest that they may have misjudged their man. His record suggests that behind the mild exterior he has the necessary steel and management skills.

But there is one serious question mark. He is stepping into a very public arena for the first time and, as well as an efficient and good leader, football needs one who will be seen as being dynamic and persuasive — in other words, a good front man.

It is not a role easily associated with Sandford. "He has marginally less charisma than Graham Kelly," granted one cynical journalist after Sandford's first press conference after his appointment. Kelly, effectively Sandford's predecessor and now his counterpart at the Football Association, was noted as an able administrator at Lytham, but notoriously lacking a dynamic personality.

Kelly, however, has begun to blossom in his new role, and possibly Sandford will also. He has one thing going for him: with the English game facing its greatest crisis, the external threat is likely to persuade even the most bullish Super Leaguers that, for the moment, everyone has to pull together. That in itself is an advantage none of the league's previous leaders have enjoyed. Even then, a talent for knocking heads together might still be required.

Peter Ball

The most damning thing one can say about a crossword clue is that it could only be a crossword clue, because it reads so oddly. The art of the compiler is to make clues read logically, smoothly and innocently. Perhaps we succeed in *The Times*, for one of our solvers has been so struck by what she is pleased to call their lyrical language that she now turns them into verse. An example culled from the puzzle of April 1, 1989:

*The war god has not backed  
Othello in battle  
Tamed, perhaps and  
defeated  
Die, we hear, as a result of  
scorched earth —  
Funeral carriage about to  
arrive at the gate  
(Specious order to sup with  
Belial)*

If any publisher is interested, the name of the

poetess is Elena A. Dingle (anag). From time to time, she sends me new examples hot from the grid, begging me not to bother acknowledging "because you must be busy turning carthorses into orchestras".

This is only one example of the enchanting letters I receive from our addicts. One of the cottage industries in this field is, of course, the correction of alleged errors. For example, although the *Shorter Oxford* defines a canter as an easy gallop, more than one reader has pointed out, apropos a dubious recent clue, that the four faces of the horse are the walk, the trot, the canter and the gallop. "However," concludes one, "all horsemen are aware of the need to make due allowance for their pedestrian brethren."

The most frequent letters, however, are requests for clues

to be explained. It is frustrating not to be able to see a clue even when you have the answer, and I have sometimes thought of adding occasional notes under the solution the following day. But how would one decide which clues to annotate (compilers are notoriously poor judges of the difficulties of their own clues), and where would we find the space in our basement on the back page, given the need to keep the puzzle below the fold?

We did, it is true, publish a footnote last year when I felt the clue "Telegraphic reply reported from Austertiz, for example (3-6)" (tap-dancer) would be impenetrable to those who had solved the homophone "tapped answer" but did not know that Austertiz was Fred Astaire's real name.

But how could one briefly

## The perils of the compiler

Crossword addicts keep *The Times* team logical, smooth and innocent

explain the clue "Billy Graham fired thus (8)" (cremated)? This refers not to the evangelist, but to Harry Graham's Ruthless Rhyme: "Billy, in one of his nice new sashes, Fell in the fire and was burnt to ashes; Now, although the room grows cold and chilly, I haven't the heart to poke poor Billy."

Some readers feel we should drop our rule of anonymity and identify our compilers at least by pseudonyms. We have 10 regular compilers plus myself. I fear that unsuccessful solvers might come to regard certain setters as personal *bêtes noires* and avoid their puzzles.

As it is, the puzzles are by a different hand each day of the week and vary in difficulty,

though not, one hopes, in consistency or fairness. The Saturday prize puzzle, incidentally, is not necessarily the hardest of the week, but is chosen as a good example of its kind.

The compiling of the puzzles seems to interest many readers. The first question is how does one start — with clues or the grid? The answer is the grid, because if you start with the clues you soon find that you cannot fit more than about half-a-dozen chosen words into the grid which, being symmetrical, is fairly intractable. (We do not make up the grids as we go along, but use any of our 25 stock grids.)

Filling in the grid usually takes a couple of hours (longer if the words behave perversely in the bottom right-hand corner). Devising the clues, which is the enjoyable part, can be

done at any time, anywhere. I reckon the whole puzzle, grid and clues, is a day-and-a-half's work, barring accidents.

One of the most common accidents is duplication. Sometimes the same word crops up in different puzzles intended for the same week. One must then either leave one of the puzzles to lie fallow for a couple of months or attempt structural repairs if the grid will allow it. But if the offending word or phrase is both long and memorable — golden handshake, to take a painful example — there is really nothing to be done except warn compilers to lay off it for the next couple of years.

And it may not be easy to find a different clue for the duplicated word when it is eventually used. We had a bad run once with conundrum,

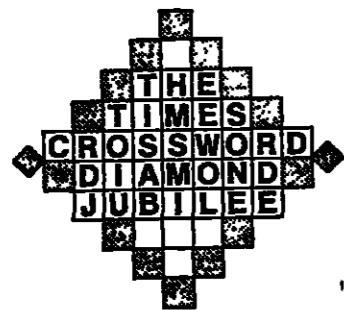
which had to be successively

clued as:  
Firm with a woman in order to beat a problem;  
Tricky question, admitting sister to company party once;  
Problem sister, running up and down in the country tea party; and  
Fish swallows blue tit — difficult puzzle.

And, finally, there is the difficulty of the virtually unclueable word. Sometimes one can find it in a quotation, but that is a last resort, for any worthwhile quotation should spring to the setter's mind naturally, and not from a trapeze through the *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*. But, having said this, I have to admit I know there are no quotations that include either epaulette or stupefy, because I have been driven to look at the index.

John Grant

## More pieces to the puzzle



Here is the fourth set of clues to our prize crossword, the answers to which fit within, but do not fill, the unshaded section of the grid

### ACROSS

- 126 Adam's wine-flask? (5-6)
- 135 Within impressionism, one talented contributor (5)
- 136 Track almost complete — but sleepers aren't (7)
- 145 Inn's surroundings, where learners get together (5)
- 146 Plant I removed from earth (5)
- 155 Jet-set? (4-5)
- 163 Make steady progress in workshop (5)
- 164 King, a fellow showing element of nobility (5)
- 171 One who lays down his life for another (11)
- 174 Where a too-enthusiastic wet has gone? (9)
- 180 View I reportedly photographed (7)
- 181 Putting on show or concealing? (9)
- 183 Bilingually, the end of a fairy (5)
- 197 Arranged a loan sum — nothing unusual (9)
- 199 A foundation on the rocks (7)
- 202 Ought to change — that's not an easy task (7)
- 205 Neat knitwear in craft collection (9)
- 206 On a trip, drinks in exalted mood (4,7)
- 208 From the M1 men, we hear many stories (3,8,3,3,6)

### DOWN

- 109 Problem with pipe tune — finally use appropriate key (7)
- 115 Tent, for example, endlessly there for king (5)
- 119 Threatening acquaintances booked in France (3,8,11)
- 127 Tribesman repeatedly volunteers to run (5)
- 136 Old men from Ireland it's futile to chase (4,5)
- 137 Patriotic work from staff in land I adore (9)
- 145 Group with mission providing work for church (4,5)
- 146 Possible to get quarters that can be improved (9)
- 155 Science established by sound investigations (9)
- 162 Poet's angry? Wordsworth's speechlessly distraught (5)
- 171 Book with coloured cover (11)
- 172 Unqualified to speak, mainly (5)
- 173 Deliberately lose a chance (5)
- 181 US writer sets end of play in Californian city (9)
- 182 Fine judgement makes sound sense (4,5)
- 184 Immediately on the side of river, initially (9)
- 187 Overwhelmed by anxiety, doctor's admitted (7)
- 188 Old man's work the lion destroyed (7)
- 189 Remove smooth characters before I appear in French city (7)
- 190 One bound I set free he escaped with ease (7)
- 198 Confusion upset university supporters (5)
- 200 Scratched and bloody when admitted (5)
- 201 Pursue game silently under cover (5)

**THE CHALLENGE**  
The Times Diamond Jubilee Crossword has been broken into five sections, which are appearing throughout this week.  
On Saturday we will reprint the whole grid, together with the remaining multi-section clues. Entries should be filed in on the grid which is reprinted on Saturday.  
There are 12 prizes on offer for the successful solvers: the winner will receive £1,000 and a trip to India for two, courtesy of Hogg Robinson and Cox & Kings. The second prize is a numbered set of the 32-volume *Encyclopaedia Britannica* in the limited edition Platinum binding, and a matching copy of the *Britannica World Atlas*. Each of the 10 runners-up will receive *The Times Atlas of the World*.  
Details of how to enter your solution, and the closing date, will be published on Saturday.

## COULD YOU SOLVE THIS PUZZLE AS FAST AS EINSTEIN?

				28
				30
				20
				16
19	20	30		

### HOW TO SOLVE THE PUZZLE

The different types of fruit have different values. Added together they give the totals shown. Work out the missing total for the left hand column.

If you can solve this puzzle, you could be eligible to join Mensa, the high IQ Society. Cut out the coupon for further details and a copy of the self-administered test. To: Mensa, FREEPOST, Wolverhampton WV2 1BR (no stamp required)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
POST CODE: \_\_\_\_\_  
SYNTHETIC

**Mensa**

January 31 1990

# GAMES DIARY

ALAN HAMILTON

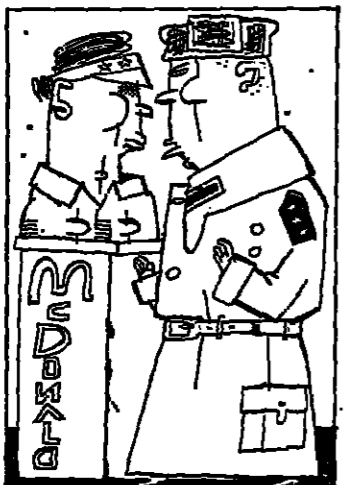
**N**ews that His Excellency Señor Don José J. Puig de la Bellacasa is going home after nearly seven years as Spanish ambassador at the Court of St James's has caused widespread regret. He returns to Madrid next month to become private secretary to King Juan Carlos, with the expectation that he will eventually become head of the Spanish royal household. The ambassador is already well acquainted with Spain's jovial motorcycling monarch, having been his secretary before Carlos took the throne. Bellacasa's achievements in cementing Anglo-Spanish relations have been little short of remarkable, in spite of the constant irritation of assorted lagers louts on the Court's first state visit by a British monarch to Madrid, a visit here by Juan Carlos during which he addressed Parliament, an official visit by the Waleses, and a guest appearance in Spain by Señora Thatcher herself. But probably the bravest act of his tenure was to light the first beacon during the 1988 anniversary of the Armada, a small matter many Spaniards would really prefer to forget. Touchingly, Bellacasa is refusing to go home until the Queen returns from New Zealand, so that he can bid her *adieu* personally.

Using the local valuation rolls, Chris Patten, our pen-green Environment Secretary, has sent out 1.7 million letters explaining the new business rates for property. Many have been returned, including one addressed to "The Beatles, The Monkeys, Manchester Road, Burnley." No longer at this address, I imagine.

**W**est Germans are getting happier and happier; it must be something to do with the prospect of reunification. The Wicket Institute has just asked 4,067 of them "Have you laughed already today?" and found that 89 per cent of them had. Three years ago only 79 per cent were laughing, and at the end of the Seventies just 77 per cent. The over-50s — the ones who will have to pay most of the tax to make reunification work — laugh least, but even 84 per cent of them are happy. Only a nation as deadly serious as the Germans could hold such a poll.

**N**ews that the fishermen of Peterhead are battling one Scottish mackerel for one Russian haddock makes me wonder how they work out the relative values. How many Loch Fyne kippers equal one sturgeon? How many Arrochar smokies to a halibut? Is this the official haddock rate of exchange, or black market? And if the Scots ever achieve independence, will they demand parity between the Finnan haddock and the Dover sole? Will the humble coley be allowed to join the European Monetary System? The Russians seem happy enough to dispose of their Baltic whitties; all I can assume is that, having digested the opening of the Moscow McDonald's this week, they are not yet ready for the fish and chip shop.

BARRY FANTONI



'One quarter-pound cabbage burger to go, Conrade'

**D**espite Dame Daphne du Maurier pooch-pooching the idea of a biography before she died last April, her daughters have commissioned one. Margaret Forster, novelist and biographer of Tackleray and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, has been assigned the formidable task. It will be published by Chatto and Windus, and Forster, in her four-year undertaking, hopes to give the "elusive" du Maurier her rightful place in the pantheon of 20th-century novelists.

**I** had never thought of Concorde in the same terms as a packet of custard creams, but a knowledge of things that fly is apparently no longer a prerequisite for landing a top job with British Airways. Jane Wilson has left United Biscuits to become brand manager for BA's fleet of the world's most beautiful aeroplane. There she will find that one of her senior general managers is Ian McComas (late of Heinz beans), another is Mike Butt (late of Mars bars), and her director of marketing is Liam Strong (late of Colman's mustard). Clearly it is not a matter of what you sell, but how you sell it. And there's much to be said for volume; one Concorde single to New York roughly equals 8,500 Mars bars.

On Monday evening a friend came to dinner, a vintage friend circa 1952. I had a nightclub in Chelsea at the time and he, an undergraduate, would come and help with the washing-up when my regular kitchen porter was overcome by St Patrick's Day. Later he became a captain of cricket and I got my own back, playing for his team. I went to his wedding; he became godfather to my third child. Then when I was in Parliament and he an academic I used to be invited to come and shout at his customers — though our politics differed substantially. In short a genuine friend.

He lives in the country, came to London by train, took the Underground, walked. I, too, took extra trouble, eschewed the street market, went to the expensive greengrocer and bought his best melon (big mistake, that), soaked a piece of gammon for 24 hours and

baked it in a covering of brown sugar dissolved in overproof rum — what the Jamaicans call "Be Rude To Your Mother-in-Law" because it gives men the courage to do just that, garish it with chunks of pineapple and slithers of fresh ginger caramelized to stinging mahogany.

We had new potatoes with parsley and undercooked Brussels sprouts liquidized with cream and a scrape of nutmeg; a bottle of Amarone 1977, one of the great Valpolicellas... and before dinner we watched the marathon from Anckland on television — he saying that red-pant looked good, I advising him not to write off green-pant who had a fearsome

finishing burst. Red-pant won. I was slicing frozen croissants horizontally, filling them with matured farmhouse cheese and anchovy fillets prior to putting them into a low oven for 12 minutes, when the pastry would crisp, the cheese melt, and we were playing cricketers' initials: Peebles? "LAR — that O level stuff." What were Sutcliffe? Trick question. Sutcliffe only had one: H. "Here is an S level Merchant who played for India." "Do you mean VIM or UM?"

He failed on Dempster CS, I on Shackleton — whose initials were never an issue, he was called Shack — when my daughter, his godchild, arrived and the con-

versation became more general. We discussed the thrifty Scotsman who was in a blue movie and played it backwards because he so enjoyed it when the booker gave him the money. We talked of our



CLEMENT  
FREUD

work my friend's was taking him to London four times a week. I asked him if he was a communist. He said he was either going to front a worldwide television awards ceremony, or do cabaret in an upstairs room of a pub in Islington; which did we think she should go for?

I was still on readers' letters, about me answering the rude ones with "how kind of you to find the time to write" and the nice ones with enthusiasm — like one from a Gloucestershire lady who was worried about my getting ripped off by London garages and gave me the name of hers, which was honest to a fault and so inexpensive that I would show a profit if I drove down, stayed the night in a

local hotel and had a good dinner. Emma's taxi came. I asked my friend when his train left: he said 11.10, had some more coffee and I drove him to the station.

On that Monday night after Emma had got home to London N16, locked her door and gone to sleep, burglars cut a hole in her downstairs window, gained admission and stripped the ground floor of her house of most of her prized possessions: meanwhile my friend got back to his house in the country at half past midnight, set the alarm for 6am and drove back to London to a meeting not a mile from where we had dinner.

"You oaf," I said to him on the telephone on Tuesday evening

when I found out. "You could have stayed here, you know we have a spare room, why did you not say?" And he unmed a bit and said: "I didn't want to impose on you, old chap."

Tallulah Bankhead once came home from a drunken party with a seal — which she put in the bath in her apartment. In the morning her housekeeper had gone, leaving a note on the kitchen table to explain that she had departed because of the seal. "I do not like seals, I would have mentioned this before but did not think it would come up."

I was going to explain to my friend that life was about successful communication but decided that after all those years I should have known about him and said: "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth."

Meek BW, he said; played for Worcestershire in the 1940s.

## Mark Almond on a Romanian conspiracy to bury the past

# Triumph of the turncoats

are reminiscent of the old order's birth pangs 40 years ago. Silviu Brucan, the Front's chief spokesman and probably its brains, was then the author of editorials and articles justifying the tactics of the National Democratic Front's supporters and denying government complicity in breaking up its opponents' meetings.

On Sunday, student demonstrators carried tattered pieces of newspaper hidden under floors for 40 years: they were Brucan's articles in *Scinteia* demanding the death penalty for the then opposition leaders. Others had disguised photographs of relations who had been executed in those grim days: the *Securitate* had cut out the faces.

Brucan, now in his seventies, risked his life last year by criticizing Ceausescu. But his criticism was essentially that the dictator's madness was destroying faith in communism. Now that he has come out on top, where does Brucan stand? The man may leave the party, but does the party leave the man?

The most striking aspect of the trial of Nicolae Ceausescu's four closest political associates (outside his family) which opened in Bucharest on Saturday is the determination of the presiding judge to allow no discussion of events in Romania before December 16, 1989. "The past is a foreign country; we all incriminated ourselves there," seems to be the justification for the narrow frame of the trial. Fear of the revelation of complicity in 40 years of repression haunts the men who toppled Ceausescu's 24-year-long rule.

Without the extraordinary courage of the students and others in so many cities, the generals of both the army and the *Securitate* would never have found the will to turn against Ceausescu. But without the security forces' desertion of their master, the slaughter of the crowds would have continued. The men who made the coup within the December revolution are now afraid that their past services to the regime will be

exhumed and found to outweigh their service to the revolution.

The apparent determination of the old *apparatchiki* at the head of the Front to hold on to power has united the principal opposition parties. Doina Cornea left the Front, in which she was enrolled against her knowledge, and has refused to join any party. She is disappointed that Ion Iliescu and his colleagues, with their administrative experience, were not willing to act as a transitional government leading to a democratically chosen post-communist system and preserve essential services from chaos.

Unlike many of those who chant "Doina Cornea is with us", she does not want revenge for the past, just guarantees for the future. It was the Front's decision to stand for election against the disparate opposition parties despite its control of the media that led to her resignation.

Only the Front is allowed to operate in the factories, which remain under the direction of the old ministries, in turn con-

trolled by the Front. Even without the burden of his past, it would be difficult to believe Brucan's denial of foreknowledge of the demonstrations against the opposition parties on Monday. The opposition may be right to say the workers (and soldiers in civilian dress) who have attacked its leaders and offices are manipulated by the Front.

However, the level of genuine support for the Front should not be underestimated. To the average Romanian, the Front has brought, beating the old *Securitate* most importantly, a real sense of freedom. Passengers remark on their delight at talking to foreigners on a train without worrying about the other people in the compartment. The real benefits of the fall of Ceausescu are magnified by the Front's crude but effective propaganda.

A visit to the now ransacked offices of the National Liberal Party revealed how proud they were of a few antiquated typewriters, but the television gave

the impression of fat-cats with dollars trying to steal the revolution from the people. Brief television slots are given to the multiplicity of parties (some rumoured to be Front creations) but they are often followed by bedside interviews with wounded heroes of the revolution expressing their support for Ion Iliescu and his colleagues.

So far the clashes between supporters of the opposition and of the Front have led only to bruises and bloody noses. Some of the intellectuals who are critical of the Front fear that if the tide of public opinion began to flow in favour of the current underdogs, worse might follow. The students think that they overthrew Ceausescu and therefore they are not afraid of Iliescu, but Ion Iliescu stands the generals of the army and the *Securitate* who helped to form the Front. At least one professor, a shrewd critic of Iliescu, fears that the military would step in rather than allow the opposition to take power and set up an inquiry into the past.

Although the old apparatus of repression is dormant, its agents are to be seen not in demob suits but in army uniforms. Growing chaos might suit the turncoats better than the dissidents.

The author is lecturer in modern history at Oriel College, Oxford.

## Bernard Levin, rejoicing in step-by-step manuscripts, is thankful that the master composers had no computers

# Switching to a different key

**T**here was an auction of musical autographs at Sotheby's not long ago at which the original manuscript of the Schumann Piano Concerto fetched £880,000 (by far the highest sum paid at the sale), not only because it was obviously an exceptional treasure, but because the experts have found substantial traces of Clara's hand in the autograph score; so substantial, indeed, that it seems we may have to call it the Schumanns Piano Concerto in future.

The same sale included a number of Beethoven items, crowned by a sketch for the first movement of the Ninth Symphony. The very thought of such an item makes me tremble; to look over Beethoven's shoulder as he wrestled with that unique and astounding opening would be as close to God as we sinners are likely to get.

In what distant deeps or skies  
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?  
On what wings dare he aspire  
What the hand dare seize the fire?

There was also a Schubert *ms.* of a Magnificat, described as "lost", leaving it unclear whether it was only the *ms.* that had been lost and was now found, or whether the work itself had hitherto never been known about. If the latter, I trust the new owner will have it published; to think of even a fragment of Schubert left unplayed, let alone a complete addition to his catalogue, would be unbearable.

Mind you, I have held in my hands the original score of the Coriolan overture, perhaps not among Beethoven's best-loved masterpieces, as, for instance, Egmont is, but surely one of his most characteristic creations, in its numerous unexpectednesses, the most unexpected being that strange finish with the four ghostly chords, like some set of great folios shutting. (The museum which let me touch the Beethoven *ms.* drew the line at the Gutenberg Bible. Still, many years ago I turned the pages of the Keimscott Chaucer; it was going for £900, and I didn't buy it, fool that I must have been.)

There is, I think, something much deeper than curiosity in the wish to see the hand actually at work; what wouldn't we give for a volume, a page, a line, of Shakespeare's? For one thing, we could see how the first attempts turn gradually into the finished passage; oh, I know Ben Jonson said "He never blotted a line", but that was surely an exaggeration, understandable in a tribute to a dead friend and colleague. But to see the ink he dipped his pen in, rusting now on the page, would be a magical experience.

Beethoven said of the second

movement of Beethoven's Eighth Symphony that "It was conceived in an instant and written down in a single sitting." And that is what we all feel when we hear it, so musically complete and perfect, is it? But Beethoven was wrong. Beethoven's sketchbooks show that he worked long and hard, changing his mind over and over again, until at last he was satisfied, if indeed Beethoven could ever be satisfied. *Art est celare artem.*

For that matter, Beethoven's most notable change of mind is *Fidelio* in its entirety. If you compare the original work, which failed in the theatre, with his second thoughts, you will find that every time he made an alteration it was for the better, and the result is not only one of the greatest operas ever written, but one of the most profound statements about love, truth, courage, justice and deliverance ever made in any form.

**I**t is now said, with much plausibility, that the age of manuscript is coming to an end. I raise into a tiny example of the plausibility not long ago, when someone wrote to ask for the original manuscript or typescript of a particular column (in which my correspondent had been mentioned). I was obliged to reply that there was no such physical reality; the article had been "typed" on the green glass of my Atex VDU, and once I had pressed the appropriate button (I am very good at pressing the inappropriate button), it went on its way into the *Times*' system, untouched by human hand.

This in turn led to another, more mysterious, question. I mentioned the episode to friends not versed in computer typesetting and similarly arcane matters; I explained that my words

were stored automatically until I went to work on them again, whereupon the right button would bring the entire text to the screen. "But where," asked one of the company, "are your words before you bring them back to the screen?" I realized that not only was I unable to answer the question; there was a sense in which I couldn't even understand it.

"I can make noises, of course." "The words are stored as electrical impulses." But for all that actually means to me, I might as well say that they are written down by an angel with a golden pen. It is all very well to be assured that the medium is not the message, and the contents are still supreme, but I don't trust this; I fear that one day I shall wake up and find that the best bottle of ink has been emptied.

Let us go back for a moment to where we started. There are computers which can copy music as easily as words; suppose Beethoven had had one of them. You can say that he would have written the same music. But we should never have had the evidence to confuse Beethoven over the Eighth Symphony, and we would never be certain which version of *Fidelio* was the better, because Beethoven would have wiped the earlier version.

What is more, we would have lost something very valuable from our idea of Mozart. For he did conceive of masterpieces in an instant; with some of his greatest works the fair copy exactly matches the sketch, indeed is the sketch. We have to believe, from the incontrovertible evidence of the manuscripts, which was the last straw for Shandley's Sakeri ("Tonight at an inn somewhere in this city stands a giggling child who can put on paper, without actually

setting down his billiard cue, casual notes which turn my most considered ones into lifeless scratches"). But if those casual notes had no existence other than as part of a machine's electronic insubstantiality, the argument could never have ended, or even started.

**A**ll is not yet lost, though, as I can testify. I possess the original manuscript score of a work dedicated to me, in fact written for me, by a young composer of great gifts, high Richard Blackford. (He also, without actually setting down his billiard cue, wrote the music for my last two television travel series.)

It is a fantasia for wind quintet (flute, oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon) on themes from *The Mastersingers*, and is called *Portrait of Hans Sachs*. It was presented to me first in a surprise performance; the circumstances were festive, and reminiscent of Wagner's birthday present to Cosima, the surprise of the *Siegfried* *Idyll*. I would not part with my manuscript for ninety-nine times the sum that bought the Schumann Piano Concerto *ms.*, and it is no use your waiting until I die and going to the auction of my effects, for I shall have bequeathed it to one who loves music and Richard as much as I do.

For a month only, Alec McCowen is reviving his memorized reading of St Mark's Gospel, at the Half Moon Theatre. Those who missed it at the Mermaid or Queen Elizabeth Hall should not miss now one of the most remarkable and profound theatrical occasions of their lives. I have no interest to declare, other than the satisfaction it will give me to know that I may have persuaded even a single waverer to go.

## Ronald Butt

# A knee-jerk sermon

**T**he overriding political danger ahead of the Government is that it will either not defeat inflation decisively in the next year or that, if it does, the cost of victory will turn growth into recession and the fall in unemployment into a renewed rise. That is not an economic climate in which it is easy to assuage public discontent with the condition of many public services and the level of investment in them.

In a tactical sense, therefore, the progress report from the Archbishop of Canterbury's Advisory Group on Urban Priority Areas, *Living Faith in the City* (the sequel to *Faith in the City*) might be said to be well-timed. Moreover, although it has followed its predecessor into the fray against the trend of government policy, it has done so with greater circumspection. The Government's commitment to the renewal of the inner cities is acknowledged, though with criticism of the resources allocated and the methods of deployment.

Yet the report reveals deplorably slipshod and illogical thinking and its words ought not, because they are softer in parts, to escape critical analysis. As good a place as any to begin is the following sentence: "In brief, the Government's claim is that by more selective targeting and more central control a smaller total of public expenditure can be used more effectively to encourage a higher level of private sector investment, leading to more rapid and sustainable local economic regeneration."

But that implies that the Government sees selective targeting and central control as a way of spending less. In fact, the Government's claim is only that they are the best way to get value for a given amount of money, the supply of which cannot be infinite. Nor would anyone suppose from the sentence quoted that the Government is actually spending much more in real terms; the implication seems to be that it is spending less.

The report goes on to criticize as inadequate the policy of encouraging a higher level of private-sector investment to benefit the priority areas. Then, having it both ways, it adds that it does not "seek to prejudice the political choices between free market and interventionist solutions to these problems and the range of practical courses in between these extremes". But to contrast the "free market" and "interventionism" as opposites in this context is absurd; the money given to stimulate the private sector is itself interventionism.

The truth is that the term "free market" has become both a buzz-word and a bogey in the church circles which consider these matters. They know that it is something that they must come to terms with. But they stay convinced that what they call "interventionism" (which must be divine) is the way of virtue. Recalling that *Faith in the City* tended to recommend interventionist policies as the

best practical way, the report remarks that it could not say this was wrong "in the deplorable situation that exists in Urban Priority Areas today".

So too, on poverty and employment the report recalls the belief of *Faith in the City* that "too much emphasis was being placed on individualism and not enough on collective obligation". It records the fall in unemployment without acknowledging that this has been due to the free-market policies it derides. It adds that the number still unemployed is much higher than would have been tolerated until a few years ago but does not mention the concealed unemployment which formerly led to inflation paid for by everyone.

**I**ndeed, nowhere does inflation come into the argument at all, which is what makes the report so purblind. Instead, the report attacks attempts to draw a distinction between absolute and relative poverty, declares that society is becoming "more unequal", seems to reject targeting social benefits and declares that current economic and social policies are intended to "recast" society.

It states: "Policies based on common obligations, corporate responsibility and social justice are rejected as leading inevitably to a loss of personal freedom, the growth of bureaucratic vested interests and economic stagnation." From the first part of that sentence, you would hardly think that the public spending announced in this week's White Paper for the next year will be 39 per cent of the gross national product, that by far the largest spending item is £56 billion on social security, or that health will take £22 billion, and that both represent increases in real terms.

The report proclaims that "economic and social policy has therefore come to elevate individual freedom as the paramount goal and the dimension of the community has been neglected" and states that for a considerable number of the poor "the picture looks bleaker than it did in 1985".

Yes it does, but only because inflation has returned to plague us. But the report has nothing to say about this, or how money is to be found for the potentially never-ending rise in potential claimants on the public purse. One sentence alone makes common sense. The report declares that over the next five years those who take poverty seriously must talk about the principles of the welfare state and the philosophy behind the move from universal to targeted means-testing benefits. Quis pro? And that means talking about ways and means. If the church insists on setting up committees on political economics, let it do so properly, talking about where the money it wants to spend is to come from and stop treating it as a kind of manna.

If it wishes to play in the game of political economy, it had better set up its own committee of ways and means.

# Guests, welcome and uninformed



CLEMENT  
FREUD

work my friend's was taking him to London four times a week. I asked him if he was a communist. He said he was either going to front a worldwide television awards ceremony, or do cabaret in an upstairs room of a pub in Islington; which did we think she should go for?

I was still on readers' letters, about me answering the rude ones with "how kind of you to find the time to write" and the nice ones with enthusiasm — like one from a Gloucestershire lady who was worried about my getting ripped off by London garages and gave me the name of hers, which was honest to a fault and so inexpensive that I would show a profit if I drove down, stayed the night in a

local hotel and had a good dinner. Emma's taxi came. I asked my friend when his train left: he said 11.10, had some more coffee and I drove him to the station.

On that Monday night after Emma had got home to London N16, locked her door and gone to sleep, burglars cut a hole in her downstairs window, gained admission and stripped the ground floor of her house of most of her prized possessions: meanwhile my friend got back to his house in the country at half past midnight, set the alarm for 6am and drove back to London to a meeting not a mile from where we had dinner.

"You oaf," I said to him on the telephone on Tuesday evening

when I found out. "You could have stayed here, you know we have a spare room, why did you not say?" And he unmed a bit and said: "I didn't want to impose on you, old chap."

Tallulah Bankhead once came home from a drunken party with a seal — which she put in the bath in her apartment. In the morning her housekeeper had gone, leaving a note on the kitchen table to explain that she had departed because of the seal. "I do not like seals, I would have mentioned this before but did not think it would come up."

I was going to explain to my friend that life was about successful communication but decided that after all those years I should have known about him and said: "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth."

Meek BW, he said; played for Worcestershire in the 1940s.

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## BOOKS

Victoria Glendinning on private writing of a butterfly of literature and a literato of butterflies

VLADIMIR NABOKOV  
Selected Letters,  
1940-1977  
Edited by Dmitri Nabokov  
and Matthew J. Bruccoli  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £29.95

I want to draw your attention to the fact that my book is a lasting contribution to American literature. Nabokov wrote to a publisher about *Bend Sinister*. Nabokov suffered, but not from self-doubt.

These letters are chosen from the vast archive in Montreux, to illuminate his professional life as an author after his emigration to America, and are mostly addressed to publishers, editors, academics, and other literati. Many of them are written by, or dictated to, his wife Vera and signed by her; she was always about her master's business. Some of his letters to his family (very loving and tender), funny letters, letters about his work on butterflies, and letters illustrating his personal philosophy ("Writers have no social responsibility") are included, to provide context.

"I have never been able to push my books - even gently," he told an editor in 1941. He learnt fast. "What are you doing in the way of publicity? When are you sending out that announcement?" he asked Harpers, about to publish *Invitation to a Beheading*. "Have you tried to get any of the so-called 'book clubs' interested...?" He was, as he put it, royally indifferent to "unimpeachable reviews", believing the only thing that helped a book commercially was "a sustained advertising campaign, lots of ads everywhere". He harried his publishers until he got them. (How meek most authors are, in comparison.) "After all, literature is not only fun, it is also business."

He was equally tough about the way his books looked. He told George Weidenfeld that the proposed jacket for *Invitation to a Beheading* was "atrocious, disgusting", and the cover for the paperback of *The Eye* "meaningless and repulsive". Precision was his mania. He would give only written answers to interviewers' questions, because he thought his own speaking style was so slipshod. He would not have his book reviews touched - "botched and butchered" - by literary editors. Surprisingly he quite liked being photographed, and gaily suggested to *Life*, in connection with a piece about butterflies, that "some fascinating photos might also be taken of me, a burly but agile man, stalking a rarity or sweeping it into my net from a flowerhead, or capturing it in mid-air."

He was more agile, better read, and simply cleverer, than his editors and publishers, whom he chided for not perceiving the coded jokes, acronyms, puns, and anagrams which he wove into his prose. He also mocked those critics - the "abab critics" - who spotted symbols and references which were not, in his



GLYN BOYD HART

## Lolita letters

opinion, there at all. You couldn't win, with Nabokov.

He was feverishly perfectionist about the translations of his Russian books into English, and his English-language books into other languages, controlling the whole process and checking every page. His son Dmitri, who co-edited this volume, was the only translator he really trusted. He wouldn't have women translators ("I am frankly homosexual on the

subject of translators") and damned Constance Garnett's rendering of Gogol as "dry shit".

This book includes corrections to translations, proofs, editorial suggestions, and his own original texts - something to marvel at, for non-specialists, rather than to read. Sometimes he slipped up himself, or rather "Father erred" as his son puts it. But style and substance undergo "a horrible and

bleeding distortion when translated into another tongue", Nabokov wrote. He himself suffered agony, switching from Russian to English in the 1940s.

*Ulysses* might be "by far the greatest English (sic) novel of this century", but in general Nabokov could not tolerate rivals near the throne. T. S. Eliot and Thomas Mann were "big fishes", Pound "distasteful and entirely second-rate", Saul Bellow "a miserable

mediocrity". He could praise too - he spotted the quality of Edmund White from his first novel - but his talent was for fulmination. It was a spill-over from his own passion to excel and his belief in his own work. His commitment is breathtaking.

He wrote his novels in pencil entirely on 4 x 6 index cards - 1075 of them for *Pale Fire* - and could only work "in an almost Proustian silence". He avoided the public aspect of authorship ("Socially, I am a cripple"), declining honorary degrees, conferences, and all public debate. He sent an icy reply to *The New York Times* Book Review, refusing to write an open letter to Solzhenitsyn when he first arrived in the West, without divulging that he had already written him a private letter of welcome.

He was engaged, in November 1951, "in the composition of a novel, which deals with the problems of a very moral middle-aged gentleman who falls very passionately in love with his stepdaughter, a girl of thirteen". The rest is history, i.e. *Lolita*. The long middle section of this volume, consisting of correspondence about the difficulties surrounding the publication of what he called his "enormous, mysterious, heart-breaking novel". He knew there would be trouble. "This great and only thing has had no precedent in literature." But *Lolita* was not pornographic. "The tragic and the obscene exclude each other." Nabokov had in fact a connoisseur's appreciation of the nude, and he liked *Playboy*.

The notes provided are spare to the point of parsimoniousness. Correspondents are identified, but many little mysteries remain: "I hope Arthur Mizener did not really mean what the *New York Post* made him say." Or, "I also enjoyed the marvelous Duchess of Windsor and the Porcelain Pug." Nabokov's widow and son are fiercely protective and reticent in the aftermath of Andrew Field's biography, which was deeply resented. The footnotes document Field's alleged villainy, and leave us in the dark over much else.

But every now and then, in this austere volume, the man's special charm is revealed - as in the discreet couplet he addressed to Dmitri in Italy when worried, as Dmitri explains in a footnote, about the possible consequence of his son's amorous adventures:

In Italy, for his own good,  
A wolf must wear a Riding Hood.

## A la recherche des Sixties perdus

FICTION

Sabine Durrant

ROCKING THE BOAT

By Ian Ross

Helmman, £12.99

WHALE MUSIC

By Paul Quarrington

Secker &amp; Warburg, £12.95

MALACHY &amp; HIS FAMILY

By Carlo Gebler

Hamish Hamilton, £12.99

THE WAITING ROOM

By Mary Morris

Hamish Hamilton, £12.99

In Ian Ross's *Rocking the Boat*, the world is a strangely hospitable place. The sun shines, landladies smile, and the King's Road is a surging sea of models and laughing hairdressers. The life of Paul Shaw, 19 years old and entrepreneur, is like listening to Cliff Richard's "Summer Holiday" over and over again.

Not that our hero would be interested in anything as twee as a London Transport Red Rover. More his ticket are MGs, pirate radio stations, and a glamorous socialite called Natasha. In dual pursuit of romantic and pecuniary success, he jitters from basement nightclubs in Soho to country houses in Ireland, all the while caught up in a heady whirl of fashion designers, record producers, and gentlemen of deception.

If coincidence plays a heavy hand in Paul Shaw's fate, it comes in the form of chance meetings that for once do not strain credulity. The wry lightness of Ian Ross's touch, the amphetamine tumble of events, the crashing torrent of name-drops convince that in *memory* anyway, the Sixties were like that.

The stars are stagnant tonight whines the narrator of Paul Quarrington's *Whale Music*. "The Great and Little Bears are hibernating. Orion has taken off his belt, laid down his sword, he's eating a TV dinner and watching 'I Love Lucy'." In this book romance is the victim of attrition; if "Summer Holiday" is being played, it's at 33.

Desmond Howell, formerly of the teen-dream Howell Brothers, is junk-fooding his life away in a reclusive, stimulant-strewn mansion in L.A. Disenchanted with the industry that he believes used his songs, took his wife, and destroyed his sibling/partner, he now exerts all his musical genius on creating sounds to woo the whales that circle his cliff-top refuge.

The image of this big, blubbery, unhappy man, feeding off Bourbon, jam-jointed pastries, and bad memories, is a pitiful one. But any suspicion of his sanity is dispelled by the visits of his grasping family, friends, and former managers (who drop in from time to time to feel for cheques behind the sofa), and by the arrival of a beautiful "alien" from the distant planet of "Toronto". Gradually he learns to exorcise the terrors of the past and the horrors of the present.

The erosion of romantic expectation is central, too, to Carlo Gebler's *Malachy & His Family*. A young boy from New Jersey comes to England to meet

the father he has never met and finds, into the bargain, a half-brother, a half-sister, and stepmother. The boy Malachy is an outsider in his own family. He is drawn to them but excluded, fascinated but embarrassed by his fascination.

The women of the clan - his stepmother's own ghostly mother included - form the nub of the narrative. Chapters are dedicated to their histories and childhoods; their every emotional nuance is noted. Through their relation to each other, a claustrophobic picture is drawn of the dependencies and destructions of family life. Oddly, though, while it is a sexual obsession with his half-sister that prompts Malachy to start his journal in the first place, he gradually erases himself from the writing. The result is strangely dislocated; it is the rites without the passage.

The unhappiness of three generations of women also stains the pages of Mary Morris's *The Waiting Room*. Naomi, who fled to America from the pogroms of Russia, buried the man of her dreams on her wedding day; June, her daughter, found her husband was love-scared by the Second World War; and her daughter Zoe lost her childhood sweetheart in Vietnam. When Zoe returns to her Midwest hometown to visit her brother in the local mental hospital, the tales of the three women are interwoven, creating a bond between them that belies their apparent coolness. So strong is the bond that, let your attention wander just a little, and it becomes hard to distinguish between them. Even Mary Morris gets them muddled. "It was the same house Zoe and Cal had put a down payment on when they married", she miswrites at one point, conjuring an incestuous partnering between father and daughter.

In Saturday's Books Pages:  
Thomas Pynchon's long-expected  
*Vineland*, D. J. Enright, *Jazz*  
*Cleopatra*, Oliver Sacks, thrillers,  
Marie of Roumania, Victorian  
lady travellers, paperback fiction

## Latin lover and performing flea

David West

OVID  
The Love Poems  
Translated by A. D. Melville  
Oxford, £15

Ovid is the performing flea of Latin poetry and no translator could hope to jump so high or draw such gilded coaches; but Melville has worked a miracle. It is difficult to imagine that there will ever be an English version so faithful to the Latin, and written in such sound and engaging verse.

Melville insists on rhyme, believing that the brilliance of Ovid's verse cannot be reproduced without it; but he avoids the tedium of an unmitigated diet of rhyming couplets by using a variety of metres, notably a Melvillian quatrain:

Your husband will be there at the same dinner  
I wish your husband his last meal tonight.  
I'm just a guest then, gazing at my darling  
While at your touch another takes delight.  
And you to warm another's breast will smuggle  
While round your neck his arm at will he throws.  
No wonder that for fair Hippodamia,  
When wine went round, the Centaurs came to blows.

But the translator can't win. There is a gain in suppleness and variety, but it does not compensate for the loss of the Ovidian glitter.

Another difficulty for the translator is the level of Ovid's language. It is so plain, casual, and easy. When he was young he found it difficult to write prose but the poetry flowed - *et quod temptabat scribere, versus erat*. There are moments when this translation sounds a little dated. This would never have done for Ovid, who was above all a creature of his age:

The good old days indeed! I am, thanks be,  
This age's child: it's just the age for me.

Perhaps, after all, the answer is to drop rhyme and find a scholar poet. Gay Lee in 1968 was further from the Latin but closer to the Ovidian spirit:

Your husband? Going to the same dinner as us?  
I hope it chokes him.  
You'll lie there snuggling up to him? He'll put his arm round your neck whenever he wants?

You would not know it from the title page, but the introduction explains that when we leave the *Amores* and come to the *Ars Amatoria*, we are reading not Melville's translation, but his modernization of the dazzling 1935 version by B. P. Moore. For example, when ladies go to the theatre

"They come to look and to be looked at too..."  
(spectatum veniunt, venient spectantur ut ipsae)  
"Secure the mistress first: postpone the maid..."  
"Gods have their uses: let's believe they're there..."  
"I hate a wench who gives because she's bound,  
While coldly thinking of the wool she's wound."  
I like not joy bestowed in duty's fee,  
I'll have no woman dutiful to me."

Delicious. And yet. And yet. Although it has all the "snap and tang" of the Ovidian elegiac, the fixed rhyme and the fixed number of syllables make it just that little less genial. It clays quicker. Rhyme is tremendous fun in Byron and Gilbert. It can't be much fun for a faithful translator.

These are astonishing poems, and Melville (and Moore) have worked wonders with them, all the more so since Melville finds Ovid's attitude to women offensive, and the poems heartless. But surely Ovid is at play, and the elegiac lover and the elegiac mistress are pawns in his game. The man himself is generous, joyous, warm-hearted, right-minded, sunny-natured. The world he creates is a fantasy world, like Mr Woodhouse's, and like Mr Woodhouse's "it will never sail" - but will continue to release future generations from captivity that may be more irksome than our own. To condemn Ovid's attitude to women is like condemning Woodhouse's attitude to amts.

Like the biblical prophets, Amos Oz pulls no punches in his desire to describe the desperate moral situation in which Israel finds itself. The dilemma underlying this sequence of articles by Israel's leading author and radical is that because of its genesis and subsequent history, Israel has developed an unreasonable obsession with defence. It has become a modern Sparta, a phalanx with its spears pointing outwards, and inwards too.

This defensiveness and inflexibility, Oz argues, paradoxically weakens Israel, as its citizens will become reluctant to defend the untenable position of retaining territories captured in 1967. It will have difficulty maintaining national cohesion, as the idea of a unified state becomes attenuated through internal conflict. Only territorial concessions will both ensure Israel's future prosperity and restore its collective moral fibre.

All writers on Israel face the task of defining the Holocaust, and its relevance to the origins of the Jewish state. Thousands of explanations have been proposed about the effect that genocide had on the Jewish psyche. Oz suggests a theory in order to explain the protectiveness which, he feels, holds Israel at a state of stagnation, and achieves a cunning insight in doing so: the essence of the civil war is the imaginative use of deception. This idea is contained in Claude Lanzmann's film *Shoah*, which Oz discusses in a group of articles, seeking to show that the evil genius behind the final solution was to hide from the victims any knowledge of their ultimate fate, by masking it with elaborate deceptions. The masters of the Holocaust carefully maintained this mass delusion, by insisting that everything be couched in the language of faceless, grey bureaucracy.

The contrast between distortion and eventual reality, and the power that deception brings to those clever enough to use it, are skilfully described, in a disembodied voice that expresses the futility of even trying to translate the Holocaust into the language of reality. Oz succeeds, however, in suggesting something of the kind of imagination used to achieve such deception.

It is against such imaginations ever succeeding again that many Israelis are anxious, even neurotic, to build defences. Oz argues that territorial concessions do not mean exposing Israel to the same risk of deception, and that such defences are useless against disturbances within the occupied terri-

## Israel as ostrich

John Slepokura

THE SLOPES OF LEBANON

By Amos Oz

Translated by Maurice Goldberg-Barbara Chatto &amp; Windus, £13.95

His more subtle conclusion is that the Jewish state has yet to come to terms with the Holocaust, the memory of which still shapes Israel's policy-making excessively.

*The Slopes of Lebanon* is written with absolute conviction and passion, and the controversial ideas are never mere provocations, but developed, structured arguments. The confident assertiveness in the ideas will convert many, if only by the simple deduction upon which Oz's call for territorial concessions rests: that a Palestinian state, ruled

by the PLO or by anybody else, cannot possibly be a threat to Israel, with its vastly superior military capability.

The major weakness of this daring collection is that it fails to address itself directly to those who would oppose such theories. Oz has no difficulty in exposing the crude dogmas of the Right, but he relies on unconscious dogmas of his own which his opponents would reject immediately. This lack of mutual understanding on both sides can only add to the polarization that already exists in Israeli society.

The depiction of the zealot Michael Sommo in his latest novel *Black Box*, a quintessentially regressive fanatic, whose whole identity is derived from his religiosity, says something about the fear with which Oz views such people; and he clearly has little patience for their convictions and attitudes. But they are a growing force demographically, and will have considerable political clout in 20 years' time. If his ideas are to influence any beyond the Progressive Left of the Labour Party and the Israeli Writers Association, it is to these groups that he will have to present his ideas, to convince them that no other alternative exists. A more formidable challenge, involving a more intractable set of adversaries, can hardly be imagined.

## NEW HARDBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books:

Goya, by José Gudiol (Thames & Hudson, £12.95) Masters of Art. I Have Sinned, Charles Napier in India, 1841-1844, by Priscilla Napier (Michael Russell, £16.95) The annex of Sind, Peccavi, by descendant. The Merry Wives of Windsor, by William Shakespeare, edited by T. W. Craik (Oxford, £27.50) State-of-art text and short notes on same page. The Long Gray Line, West Point's Class of 1906, by Rick Atkinson (Collins, £15) Vast reportage of the harrowing Vietnam generation. Politics & Production in the Early Nineteenth Century, by Clive Behag (Routledge, £30) Social history mined from Birmingham. Voyage to the Whales, by Hal Whitehead (Robert Hale, £12.95) Three-year expedition, scientific Moby-Dick-watching in Indian Ocean. World War II, A 50th Anniversary History, by the writers and photographers of The Associated Press (Robert Hale, £14.95)

## PAMELA STREET DOUBTFUL COMPANY

With all her renowned powers of perception, expert story-teller Pamela Street uncovers the gradually intertwining lives of three disparate and vulnerable women. A brilliant novel.

£11.95

ROBERT HALE

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HEALTH

# Born to be whole

The first heart surgery on a foetus in the womb has dramatic implications, not least for plastic surgery. Liz Gill reports

Surgery on the unborn seemed, until recently, an impossible dream. Now, with the world's first heart operation on a baby still in his mother's womb at Guy's Hospital, plus a series of perhaps even more extraordinary procedures in America, fantasy has become fact.

The pioneering techniques to date have been used to give otherwise doomed babies at least a fighting chance of life. But their implications are far wider: what is learnt and developed in these early days may ultimately affect the lives of millions.

In plastic surgery in particular, the unborn child may well be father to the man. Experts believe that within a few years they will not only be able to correct defects before birth, but by understanding the mechanisms of foetal healing they will be able to help adults disfigured by trauma.

Much of this optimism springs from work done by Dr Michael Harrison, head of the foetal treatment programme at the University of California in San Francisco. He has performed the only operation so far where the foetus is actually removed from the uterus for surgery - either partially or wholly - and then replaced.

The defects tackled in this way have been of three main kinds: diaphragmatic hernias, where the abdominal contents protrude into the chest cavity, preventing lung development; blocked ureters in male foetuses, causing kidney dilation and lack of amniotic fluid, which in turn inhibits lung growth; and sacral tumours at the base of the spine which, though benign in themselves, take so much blood that they cause cardiac failure.

The defects were discovered by routine scans at around 16 weeks and the operations carried out at between 22 and 26 weeks, when the foetuses were about 8in long and 1lb in weight.

The hernia problems are the most difficult - apart from all the other considerations the procedure is technically complex, and only one baby out of six has survived. The bladder operations have been more successful - four out of six babies have survived, as have the two who have undergone tumour surgery. Without surgery, all would have died.

David Whitby, senior registrar in plastic surgery at St James's Hospital, Leeds, spent several months with Harrison last year and is due to return to California for a further year's research in July. He says: "A lot of patients were sent for consideration, but the technique could only be used on a few. You have to assess which ones would not survive without it, and then within that group you have to find the ones where the abnormality has not become so great that you cannot correct it."

The operation itself, he says, involves opening the uterus "as in a Caesarean" and placing the entire



Baby face: foetal tissue's healing properties provide clues for wound repair

foetus, or just the part to be operated on, outside, on to the mother's abdomen. The procedure, which uses magnification and micro-surgery techniques, is kept as short as possible because of potential problems with temperature and loss of fluid, but the foetus itself does not have to be on a support system since it is still drawing its oxygen through the umbilical cord.

Post-operative medication is given to prevent premature labour, but Harrison's team has not yet been able to delay this longer than 32 weeks, at which time the babies have been delivered by Caesarean section. "The mother is anaesthetized and so the foetus is anaesthetized through the placenta. They are closely monitored and there has been nothing to

suggest they feel any pain," Whitby adds.

One of the most fascinating aspects of pre-natal surgery is the fact that foetal tissue does not appear to scar, and it is this phenomenon that may ultimately have the widest implications for conditions that are not life-threatening but are certainly life-sustaining.

"Foetal surgery is attention-grabbing because it is so dramatic, but what is also vital is that the foetus provides us with a model for ideal wound repair. It is as if the operation were invisible," he says.

"If we can discover how it works - and there seems no reason why we shouldn't - we should be able to manipulate it or duplicate it so that we can help adult wounds to heal without scarring. This would be of

extraordinary benefit to burns victims and those disfigured in a road traffic accident and other traumas, as well as children or adults with facial and other abnormalities which need plastic surgery.

Not only is scarring unsightly, it can cause physiological problems, sometimes restricting the growth of surrounding tissue or altering function: a common complication of a cleft palate repair, for instance, is that scar tissue affects flexibility.

With congenital defects, the earlier they are tackled the better: cleft palates are already done within days of birth. Being able to operate on a foetus, where the tissues have much greater elasticity and this remarkable repair mechanism, would further increase the chances of normal future growth, Whitby says, and reduce the need for a series of operations, as is often the case now.

The problem is that a defect which is initially small causes further distortion as it grows. "This is why, for instance, there is usually some deformity of the nose with a cleft lip."

Ultrasound techniques are now so sophisticated that they can pick up even minor problems as early as 12 weeks' gestation, provided, says Whitby, you know what you are looking for. Thus not every baby would be routinely scanned for a cleft palate, for instance, but those with a family history of the problem would be scanned.

Moreover, Whitby says, DNA detection techniques are increasing in scope all the time; eventually, a simple blood test might indicate various potential problems.

The whole field of foetus surgery is still in its early stages, and much has yet to be resolved, not least of which are the implications for the mother.

"You have, for example, to consider not only the risk of the actual operation but also her future fertility. Ordinarily the incision for a Caesarean is made low down, but with these operations you must make it into the body of the uterus. That then becomes a weak spot, and there might be a small risk that it might rupture during a subsequent pregnancy. "On the other hand, if you are producing a perfect baby at birth there must be great psychological advantages. Parents are not having to come to terms with a deformed baby."

The unanswered question, of course, is what effect all this may have on the developing baby and its personality. There is already a substantial school of thought which says that influences before birth may be as powerful as those afterwards.

"This is what we just don't know," Whitby says. "There are people who say they have memories of life in the womb. But all those who have had this operation are still too young for us to know."

# Lens wearers must clean up their act

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

The ability of contact lenses to boost the morale of people teased since schooldays about spectacles is almost as important as any improved vision they bring.

The cost paid for these advantages is the ever-present threat of corneal infection and ulceration, keratitis. Hitherto patients have been taught that if they follow the manufacturers' instructions all will be well, and that it is only the negligent who suffer. A report in *Pulse* magazine has warned that there is an organism, *scandium*, at large in tap water which defies the usual recommended cleaning schedule, soaking for two to four hours in 3 per cent hydrogen peroxide.

lan Mackie of St George's Hospital suggests that if sterile water is not available to clean the lens, tap water should be taken from the kitchen, which usually runs off the mains, rather than from the bathroom.

Once the water-borne infection has been introduced into the eyes it seems to be stimulated by the tears and becomes difficult to treat. In the absence of anything better, Neomycin remains the treatment of choice.

at their sharpest, raised cholesterol levels, and increased weight. Twenty years ago dieticians thought that a 14st, 6ft City man could lose a stone in weight in a year if he divided his daily calorie intake into three equal portions rather than taking them all in one large meal.

The *British Medical Journal* makes the point that the advice to eat little and often is not a licence to have snacks between three hearty meals a day. Jenkins's subjects took a prudent diet.

● The *St Thomas's Recipe Book* costs £4.50 (or £3 inc p&p) from St Thomas's Baby Fund, Department of Gynaecology, 6th floor, North Wing, St Thomas's Hospital, London SE1 7EH.

Private care Ministers as well as patients will welcome the reduction in the number of hysterectomies, which have become the subject of Health Secretary Kenneth Clarke's latest battle with the British Medical Association. The BMA feels that it is not right that lay administrators should be furnished with a list of women who have had hysterectomies so that an up-to-date record of women still needing smears can be prepared. Other doctors, conscious that the local bureaucracy already handles sensitive information about smears, prescriptions, pregnancies and even the patients' entire case notes, would rather direct their fire at the recently publicized ministerial concept that all information which a doctor acquires when dealing with his NHS patients becomes the property of the bureaucracy, rather than attacking a single issue.

## Less cutting

Traditional surgeons of the type depicted in *Doctor in the House* had a straightforward philosophy: "When in doubt, cut it out."

The huge scars of which they were proud were their trademark. Surgery is changing; gallstones and kidney stones still have to be removed, but the fragmenting power of the lithotripter has made the operation a less invasive, or even non-invasive, procedure. Inflamed appendices can now be removed through a laparoscope, leaving no more than a puncture wound; knees are operated on via an arthroscope; prostases can be shrivelled by a microwave; and soon a large percentage of hysterectomies will be avoided by using treatment which removes the lining of the womb rather than the womb itself.

## Be a nibbler

Press pictures of Alexandra Griffiths happily cradled in her mother's arms at St Thomas's Hospital hours after they had been reunited not only strengthens the psychiatric view that much of the maternal bonding takes place during pregnancy and at, or immediately after, delivery, but also demonstrates the regard which south London mothers feel for the hospital. Providing this standard of service has its difficulties, for Alexandra is only one of 3,500 babies delivered annually in labour wards designed to cope with 1,500.

This week, a campaign

planned long before Alexandra became a household name has been launched to raise £3 million to improve delivery and research facilities. The fundraising activities organized by staff and former patients include the publication of a recipe book. One former patient, Deborah Cox, with total disregard for medical teaching, favours a chocolate torte dessert made from cream, butter, eggs, chocolate, instant coffee and brandy; a member of staff, Dawn Mangani, more conscious of the Health Education Authority's advice, has sprung a dish of mackerel, spring onions and mixed herbs.

The book suggests food for every hour of the day, which, according to Professor David Jenkins of Toronto, is just as it should be. Canadian research has confirmed 1930s studies which showed that if people abandoned the three traditional meals a day and instead ate little and often, up to 17 times daily, they could continue to take the same amount of calories but would lose weight and have an improved blood cholesterol. In Jenkins's subjects, total cholesterol fell by an average of 8.5 per cent, and the dangerous low-density cholesterol by 13.5 per cent.

Recent editorials in *The Lancet* and the *British Medical Journal* have discussed the advantages of becoming a nibbler, for although the Jenkins regime of 17 meals a day may be impractical, there is precedent for the Jenkins case from Victorian farmworkers, who regularly managed five daily.

The *Lancet* has used the recent research to attack the increasingly popular habit among City commuters of eating one huge evening meal a day; this results in a low blood sugar during the working day, when they need to be

# Training to be a higher flyer

I applied to be the first British astronaut along with 13,000 other people in mid-summer, went through the selection procedures and ended up in the final four. Two are in Moscow now (one of whom will presumably be the first astronaut) and two of us are back-ups in the UK.

The Soviets have many years' experience in space, so we are learning from them. For example, on the endoscopy test, looking at the stomach, 'any duodenitis or gastritis, any sign of an ulcer or healed ulcer, excludes a person. Although it's only a seven-day mission, they don't want it in any way jeopardized by one person.

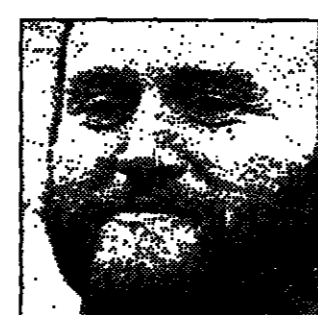
I've been slightly lucky in that I'm a navy diver and my medical interest has been occupational medicine. To maintain my qualification as a diver I have to keep a certain level of fitness which is tested once a year. I try to do a little exercise each day - my favourite time is swimming, at least twice a week, 60 lengths of the local pool. I'm fairly lazy and if I could avoid doing exercise I would, so I find that the best way for me is to run or cycle in and out of work - between two and four miles every day. My philo-



GORDON BROOKS

osophy on food is to look at what we were designed to do before we had modern technology. We were hunter-scavengers and we ate some meat and a fair amount of whatever else was available. I don't eat much meat, mainly chicken and fish, and lots of baked beans - a much under-rated food. I don't eat much fruit but I drink a lot of juice and eat a lot of vegetables. I work best with six or seven hours' sleep, more than that and I feel lethargic the next day, but I can work (and frequently do) all through the night. I can maintain concentration for that period of time and get a job done.

I have experienced a fair amount of stress - I was in the Falklands in a ship that was



intoxicated and light-headed. I think most people found the motion sickness tests the hardest. There was one where we were zipped up into a black plastic bag on wheels and trundled backwards and forwards on a railway line for 20 minutes. To me it felt like being in the hold of a big ship with a storm approaching so it didn't worry me. The motion sickness test is important because in the first week in space about 50 per cent of astronauts are very sick, vomiting and disoriented. This mission is only a week long and they want people to perform intricate experiments in that time, so they don't want them to be sick.

In the past there have been a lot of problems with astronauts returning and having out-of-body and religious experiences, and they were trying to exclude anybody with a tendency to this. This is a serious scientific mission with an awful lot of things to be thought about. There's also going to be a tight schedule of experiments and the last thing they want is someone going up there and saying, "Gosh, how nice it is," and gazing out of the window.

Interview by Pamela Nowicka

# Gadgets for life

Tina Turner keeps hers in the boot of her Range Rover, Terry Wogan waves his at passing horses, Mary Quant has hers in the kitchen, Christopher Wray pulls the lever on his and Anita Roddick never travels without hers. Ranging

from can-openers to computers, and hi-tech wonders to old-fashioned favourites, they are life's little essentials. Nicole Swengley presents a catalogue of gadgets belonging to well-known people in *The Times* on Saturday.

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SOME REVIEWS MAY BE REPRINTED FROM YESTERDAY'S LATER EDITIONS

## THE ARTS

## Lost in critical circles

TELEVISION  
Sheridan Morley

Having spent the last 25 years of my life as a drama critic, when not staring at television on your behalf, I approached last night's *Signals* on Channel 4 with a wary kind of fascination. Discussions about the role of the critic are a regular part of the job. No politician ever gets as exercised about the function of a Westminster journalist, no stockbroker ever frets about a City Editor, as much as playwrights, directors and actors agonize about the power, responsibilities and tastes of a drama critic.

It was, therefore, intelligent of *Signals* to open with a dressing-room monologue by Nicholas Craig, the mythical actor invented by Nigel Planer of *The Young Ones*, precisely to pinpoint and parody the neuroses of players when faced with the gap between themselves and reality.

It was perhaps less intelligent to set the rest of the discussion in the hothouse atmosphere of the Hampstead Theatre, thereby confining much of it to the specific anxieties of North London intellectual theatrical workers. Why can these discussions never take place in the Palladium or the Citizens' in Glasgow?

True, Joyce McMillan, combining a double rarity in being both a female reviewer and a leading Scots one at that, blasted in like a breath of Highland air; but for the rest of the debate we were treated to the usual ritual lurch around sexual and racial prejudice and whom the critic thinks he or she is employed to serve.

Nobody was ever intelligently challenged. Mike Leigh suggested that not enough critics knew enough of backstage reality, presently unaware that almost all have in their time been amateur student actors or directors or indeed professional playwrights. Timothy West thought most of us had been around too long, without ever wondering whether actors might have the same problem. Vintage clips of old John Osborne rows, or Ken Tynan bickering with Harold Hobson, only served as reminders of how little the debate has progressed in 40 years.

There was a recent storm in a teacup over whether the critic Frank Rich destroyed David Hare's last play on Broadway. The answer is that any hostile *New York Times* review always destroys a serious play on Broadway, for the simple reason that New Yorkers seem incapable of buying more than one serious paper.

With this affair as its news peg, *Signals* drifted around the usual arguments over instant journalism versus academic criticism, Tynan versus Shaw, good writing versus respectful box-office ticket salesmanship. But it did not reach any conclusions that would not have been familiar to both Hazlitt and Max Beerbaum.

At the end, it was left to Paul Gens to ask simply how any drama critic can ever hope to remain sane. The answer is "with difficulty", especially when faced with yet another playwright asking why critics really believe they are there to criticize.

## Yours precisely, Arthur Miller

Heather Neill on the American writer whose play *The Price* opens in London tonight and whose work, old and new, is more popular than ever before

Arthur Miller is in town. The strong, benign face—once affectionately described by the actor Bob Peck as looking, when jet-lagged, like a tired ostrich—stares out from every kind of newspaper. Whatever Douglas Hurd is up to in the States, some kind of artistic "special relationship" exists between British theatre and this man, the quintessential 20th-century American, survivor of the Depression, McCarthyism and marriage to Hollywood's Ideal Woman.

The Arthur Miller Centre was opened with éclat at the University of East Anglia some months ago and the plays are being revived in theatres from Lancaster to the National, from Leicester to the Young Vic, where *The Price* opens tonight. Miller has, it seems, something to say to us, both in person and through his work, which we clamour to hear.

At a press conference at the Young Vic last week, he reiterated his most familiar—and necessary—caveat: without adequate subsidy, serious British theatre will die; Broadway is an awful warning. Ironically, he has helped to put on the map one of the most under-funded theatres in London: this is the fifth Miller play to be directed by David Thacker at the Young Vic. "I like small, unsuccessful theatres", he jokes. "I like the atmosphere here. Actors become less playful when there's a million dollars riding on them." He adds simply: "They do my plays well here." But that laconic statement belies the closeness of his association with this particular director; a man of almost 75 must have good reasons for flying the Atlantic to attend rehearsals.

This is the second time he has come over during rehearsals: he was here a year ago when Helen Mirren and Bob Peck appeared in the premiere of his double-bill *Two-Way Mirror*, but his contact with Thacker goes back beyond that. News of the Young Vic's *Crucible* reached Miller via his agent in 1986. Subsequently,

Thacker worked, with the author's approval and support, on "Englishing" his version of Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*. Miller saw that production last year and wrote about it enthusiastically.

*The Price* is set in the former family home of two brothers, Victor, a policeman (played here by David Calder), and Walter (Bob Peck), a successful surgeon. Victor gave up his ambition to be a doctor in order to look after his father following his bankruptcy during the Depression; Walter escaped to achieve recognition in the wider world. Yet each has to face hard truths about his motives, about the real reason for his choice and what that has cost him. As Peck puts it: "They must get to the marrow of the bone of contention between them."

For Peck there are clear personal echoes: he happens to have a brother who is a policeman and who took most responsibility for caring for their father, while he has himself found success in theatre, film and television. Miller, he says, presents actors with characters so specific and recognizable and dialogue so real that when things are going well they scarcely feel they are acting at all. "When you act in Miller you take on a whole culture."

Thacker's hallmarks as a director are respect for the text and an emphasis on human feeling, what he has called "emotional nakedness". Given the fierce passion in his plays it is not perhaps quite so difficult to appreciate Miller's interest. He can supply the answers when Thacker requires specific information and he must be impressed by the attention to detail. "The *Price* seems," says Thacker, "to have been set in 1964 and that crucial conversation between the brothers to have taken place in 1936." He presented the internal evidence to Miller, who had forgotten, but corroborated the suppositions. Esther, Victor's wife, has just been for a

check-up in the first scene of the play. There are references to alcohol, but has she another illness? Miller immediately provided the answer: over-active thyroid. "It gives the actress [Marjorie Yates] something concrete to work with," says Thacker. These snippets of information were gleaned from trans-Atlantic telephone conversations. According to Peck, the director was on the phone before the play was cast. Yet Thacker deprecates the idea of a special relationship, merely using the same, easy-sounding formula as Miller himself: "We try to do the plays well."

Director and actors testify to Miller's supportiveness, his humour and humanity. He hung back at first last year, but soon he was improvising the unheard responses to Bob Peck's telephone conversations in *Some Kind of Love Story*. His contribution is chiefly, as he puts it himself, "to give short cuts, to throw a light on something that might otherwise be murky". But the way he does that can be inspirational. The attitude of the cast is little short of adoring, but more because Miller is anxious to demystify than because he comes on as the great celebrity.

After the first morning's rehearsal of Miller's visit, Marjorie Yates looked as if she had been given the key to her portrayal of Victor's disappointed wife: Esther, she had been told, could have been happy living on her own. David Calder had suddenly seen his character as a radical someone who, affected by the Depression, believed that Capitalism was coming to an end. "There's a smell of it in the text. But it's so clear now. It saves weeks."

"This," says Thacker, "is an extraordinary moment in history. People in Europe are trying to investigate the past in a truthful way, to uncover what is illusory. Miller's work is especially powerful now."

● *The Price*, directed by David Thacker, previewing from tonight at the Young Vic, London SE1, opens there next Wednesday.



Arthur Miller: he frequently visits Britain and likes "small, unsuccessful theatres"

## Spidery tale which lacks bite

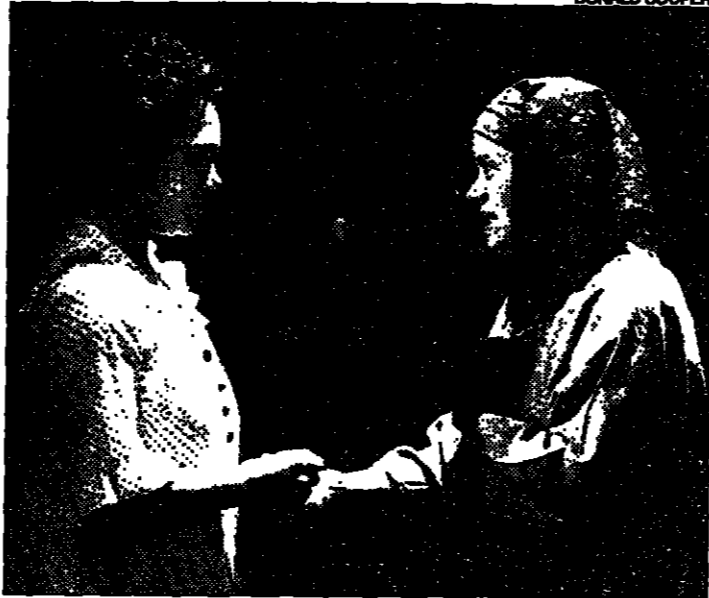
THEATRE  
Benedict Nightingale

Have  
The Pit

The black widows scuttling across the Pit's muddy floor are human, but turn out to have had arachnid habits. When their husbands had served their purpose, by acquiring enough acres to be worth inheriting, they promptly poisoned them.

This apparently happened with remarkable frequency in rural Hungary between 1920 and 1929, four years before *Have* was written. For some commentators, it was explained by conjugal violence, for others by an anarchist spirit dating from the war. For the communist dramatist Julius Hay—then in prison, penning the play on lavatory paper—the reason was embodied in his one-word title. In a world where having and not having define human value, the have-nots will do anything to become haves.

It sounds dull, and at the Pit is sometimes dourer than it might be. Opportunities for wry laughter are missed. In spite of the occasional piece of rustic flamboyance and the unexplained omni-



Wedding-eve advice: Naomi Wirthner (left), and Estelle Kohler in *Have*

presence of a cackling gipsy girl, the cast never quite throw off their Englishness. Some seem not to have been nearer grubby, dangerous Transylvania than South-end. Yet somehow Janice Honeyman's production remains lucid, brisk, gripping.

Things begin fake-innocently, with the poor policeman Dani (John Ramm) dreaming of marrying his wilting sweetheart Mari (Naomi Wirthner). And then, after yet another suspicious funeral, the revelations proliferate. She is pregnant by Dani; then married to a rich landowner; and then, armed with "white powder" by the local midwife, his and his crippled daughter's murderer. Her voracity increases with her violence.

Hay's point is, of course, that love, morality, everything, disappears under economic pressure. Only possession matters. And when their fortunes improve, the exploited adopt the ethics they know, those of the exploiters. It is a familiar analysis, and not always put across with great subtlety by Hay. The word "have" enters the conversation with portentous frequency. There is an enlightened priest to wonder where the "blame" lies for poverty, and a communist family to suggest that social change is possible. There is also a fatuous police sergeant who unconvincingly mocks the powerful by idolizing them.

Yet some characterization—a flustered, self-pitying doctor, or a city sentimentalist patronizingly in search of folk culture—is marvellously idiosyncratic. In 1956 Hay was imprisoned as a dissident, and even in his communist days was too quirky to be dismissed as a glib didact.

Supporting performers—Bob Heyland, William Chubb, Rebecca Saire—come off best. But Wirthner fails plausibly to make her admittedly tricky transitions: innocence to hardness to bewilderment. And apart from one moment, when she literally lets down her hair and balefully dances, Estelle Kohler misses the wildness and danger of the play's most interesting character, the killer-midwife, Kepes. She should be the spider queen, magnificent and wild—and isn't.

Jeremy Kingston

The Naked  
Haymarket Studio,  
Leicester

After a poor attempt at a Victorian whodunit last month, the Studio Company find themselves on surer ground with an interesting Pirandello, written in the same year as *Enrico IV*, and to some extent the reverse image of it. Where the hero of *Enrico* cannot escape from a role he no longer wishes to play, the frail victim of *The Naked* cannot find her way into the role she longs to play.

An ugly episode with her married employer has left Ersilia psychologically naked, lying in her hospital bed after swallowing poison. Desperate to think of her life as containing some scrap of romance, she turns a passing affair with a naval officer into a doomed grand passion. But the story gets into the papers, her life is saved and the men in her past rush forward to dispute her account, leaving her without a stitch of romance to cover her nakedness. Like a true Pirandello character, she is trapped in the coils of her past.

When Ersilia's curiously storm-tossed manner towards the other characters is finally explained, in a

curtain speech while a second dose of poison is conveniently slow to take effect, much of what has gone before slips into focus. Until then, however, Pirandello's method of disclosing a story that all lies in the past calls for emotional outbursts out of synch with what has been revealed so far. Finding the tone that makes enough sense to get along with is not easy, and the actors who come off best are those playing the shallower characters—Lawrence Kennedy's flustered officer and Neal Sweetenham's complacent journal. Until her final speech, Valerie Gogan keeps Ersilia on too narrow a range of victim and martyr, where a more vibrant delivery would help us forget the hardness of our seats.

Fenella Fielding never convinces us for a moment that she is gossiping with a neighbour through the window, but it is good to see her playing the hemmed landlady with a restraint that keeps the comedy within the needs of the play. Even the word "qualms", which in other circumstances she is quite capable of stretching to five syllables, slips through at its normal length.

The decision to run three acts without an interval is seriously unkind, and Simon Usher's direction should look to the sunbeams that, morning and evening, slant through the shutters at the same angle.

## A performance short on polish

CONCERTS  
Richard Morrison

RPO/Ashkenazy  
Festival Hall

Joshua Bell is a young American violinist who gained some notoriety when Decca accompanied his first disc with a broadside of hagiographic hype remarkable even by record company standards. The classical music world still clings to the old-fashioned notion that you do your great performances first, and become famous later; reversing this procedure has done Bell no favours.

His performance of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto revealed a promising talent in need of polishing. For every technically

impressive passage there was a blemish: the whizz through the finale was deft and accurate, but the double-stoppings occasionally took us into the realms of the oriental modes. His tone has a silvery distinction, but sometimes his articulation is marred by a rather harsh scoop towards the right pitch.

It is, however, his interpretation that needs most attention. At present his delivery of even the sentimental *Andante* has a cold, robotic feel. Note succeeds note, but they rarely add up to phrases that speak to the heart.

The Royal Philharmonic, under Vladimir Ashkenazy's direction, continues to be a thoroughly resilient, if not resident, orchestra. Ashkenazy's sturdy account of Beethoven's overture *Leonora* No 3 might have served as an example to Joshua Bell of what musical

expression is all about: a passionately romantic approach to dynamics, spoiled only by some wobbly ensemble work.

Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony was played even better. Ashkenazy took a thrillingly full-blooded view of a work that sometimes seems to embarrass its executants with its blatant emotionalism.

The opening had a marvellously melodramatic atmosphere of Dostoevsky-like brooding; the waltz was by turns lithe or busting; the phrasing of the big, sweeping tunes was done with a lifting flexibility; and the finale crackled with brass power. Ashkenazy even managed to instil some fresh ideas: no mean feat with this battered old warhorse. To the first movement he added a few half-pauses that seemed to intensify the Slavonic weightiness, while in the finale he brought unusual emphasis to the horns' counter-tunes.

Hilary Finch

Suk Trio  
Wigmore Hall

memory of the composer's teacher and father-in-law, Dvorák, the work summoned forth immediately the Trio's distinctive voice: at once expansive and densely concentrated, sweet yet bitter edged, deep and generous of breadth.

In Dvorák's F minor Piano Trio, the details which fuse to articulate the group's full-hearted playing began to surface: the seemingly intuitive timing and placing of

every *portamento*, the leaping melodies, hard-pushed physically, yet never over-stretched musically; the sudden moments of understatement like Suk's own reluctant start of the slow movement's melody.

After the interval came another work of substance, composed, like the Dvorák, against a background of bereavement and grief. Smetana's G minor Piano Trio, born from Suk's own wonderfully soaring and dipping recitative, was to give glowing prominence to both piano and cello. Hala's luminous piano playing led into the final outburst of corporate affirmation.

## Falling for the master of charm

POP  
David Toop

Barry Manilow  
London Palladium

Having to retrieve a battery-powered flashing red rose from under my feet, dropped by the lady in seat Q11, was surely the best possible start to a charity concert given by Barry Manilow. Fifteen minutes before the curtain was due to rise, the stalls were enveloped in feverish excitement.

"I feel ill, I can't be that close," squeaked one fan, moving towards the back of the theatre for emotional refuge. Only star-spotting of the "Barbara Windsor, 'oos she married to?' variety seemed to offer any distraction during these final tense moments.

When Barry appeared, wearing a black polo-neck sweater and red jacket, there was pandemonium.

Rambert Dance Company proudly lists Frederick Ashton as founding choreographer, but perhaps the company should find a masthead place for the name of Merce Cunningham too, since he is the role model for many of its present choreographers.

Not that any of the new generation can hope to match the old master, so it is a pleasure to welcome another real Cunningham work to the repertoire—*Doubles*, which was premiered at Birmingham Rep on Tuesday.

Created for his own company in 1984, this is a sequence of dances lasting 75 minutes for a total of four women and three men. Much of the action takes the form of solos, which are interrupted or counterpointed part of the time by, generally speaking, a couple of other dancers.

The movement involves, for the



Manilow: self-mocking magic and the male members of the audience looked on grimly.

Commencing with a John F. Kennedy quote, Barry at once revealed those aspects of his act which drive stern critics to derision and otherwise self-possessed women to delirium. Awkward, vulnerable yet supremely relaxed, he appeared to sing almost as an afterthought. The soft carpet of digital strings crept underneath one of his charming autobiographical an-

ecdotes and suddenly the band was into a number.

The singing was effortless and unexceptional, but that is not the point. "Memories" was approached with a degree of subtlety not usually associated with such a dreaded song. It was only delivered as a "belter" when the key changed and the military snare drum entered.

For rendition of his 1978 hit, "Can't Smile Without You", he picked Suzanne, a London bank employee, to come up from the stalls and join him on stage. These occasions can be distasteful, but Manilow coaxed her through the song gently and then presented her with a signed video of their duet.

Fans like Suzanne love to hear Barry make fun of his big nose and share his past tribulations. In the final analysis, Manilow is hard to dislike. If there is a lesson in his act for scornful critics it must be this: self-mockery has more sexual allure than self-promotion.

For the calm assurance she brings to a later sequence, and Steven Brett for the quiet strength of his movement.

The accompaniment is a tape by one of Cunningham's regular collaborators, Takehisa Kosugi, consisting of squeaks arranged with rhythmic complexity and varied sonorities so that they sound like a machine trying to produce birdsong. It hardly sounds attractive, but is compulsive in its invention.

Mark Lancaster's design is reticent almost to the point of unnoticeability: a plain red backcloth, and track-suit trousers worn over half-sleeved leotards in a subtle combination of colours. The dancers look good in them, and in the piece. There are further performances this month at Mold and York, and next month at Sadler's Wells.

DANCE  
John Percival

Doubles  
Birmingham Repertory

women, repeated and sustained balances on one leg while the other leg projects in different directions and at varied angles. These are often accompanied by crisp gestures with the hands. For the men, meanwhile, there are frequent circling jumps.

Because the choreography is uncluttered and precise, it calls for dancing of great accuracy. This it gets from a cast with no weak links, although three of the dancers especially stand out—Amanda Britton for the forceful simplicity of her opening solo, Lucy Bethune

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THE ARTS/FILM

David Robinson reviews the Chet Baker biopic *Let's Get Lost, Sur, Far North and Lockup*, and previews a season of pre-Revolutionary Russian films

# Till he blew himself away

The first few minutes of Bruce Weber's *Let's Get Lost* (15, Metro) are not encouraging. The dislocated images, frantic camera movement, grainy black and white images and self-conscious compositions promise a photographers' film — and Weber, after all, a world-class photographer.

Bit by bit, though, it becomes apparent that these fragments are elements in a collage, whose design becomes clearer as the film goes on. When the last piece (which is in fact one of these first puzzling images) finally falls into place, there is the intense satisfaction of filling the last hole in a jigsaw puzzle. We have our complete picture, which is a portrait in depth of the jazz trumpeter Chet Baker.

Baker was born in Oklahoma in 1929, taught himself trumpet (he never learned to read music) and at 24, after getting himself discharged from the army on psychological grounds, was playing with top jazz musicians such as Charlie Parker and Gerry Mulligan. He was dazzlingly handsome, in the short-haired, baby-faced style of the Fifties. His looks and the deep dark eyes, expressing both heart and burning sincerity, made him a natural romantic idol for the James Dean era. Apart from his trumpet, he had a soft, seductive singing voice. He was featured in a few films; an awful sex-drugs-and-music melodrama, *All The Fine Young Cannibals*, was partly based on his life, and he had a brief acting career in Italian films. In later life he was ravaged by drugs; and in the late Sixties his musical career was interrupted when he lost all his teeth in a brawl. He was eventually able to perform again; but died mysteriously in 1987, falling from the window of a hotel room in Amsterdam. My colleague Clive Davis, elsewhere on this page, traces the story from the jazz-writer's viewpoint.

Bruce Weber became fascinated — as most people who knew Baker were — during the last year of the musician's life. Baker's

unpredictable habits made shooting difficult; but Weber followed him doggedly, filming his last recorded sessions and constant interviews. Baker's face is ruinous, with sunken cheeks and deep furrows; and he moves and speaks as if in a trance, slowly and painfully groping for thoughts and words.

Somehow his musical gift has survived, more or less intact; and the deep eyes still protest sincerity — quite mendaciously, as we gradually discover. He tells, with feeling, the story of losing his teeth; moments later, one of his mistresses warms us that his version, like much else, is likely to be quite untrue.

We meet one of his three wives, several of his mistresses, and his mother. All remain reluctantly under the spell of his charm, even while they recall the desertions, infidelities, disloyalty, ruthless manipulation and even brutality. Weber has caught some extraordinary revelations: Baker's desperate effort to dredge up from his fogged mind some knowledge of his own children; the moment when his mistress discovers that the gift from Baker that she has most treasured — the film rights in his life — has been prodigally given to Weber as well. There is a more disgusting episode when Baker's widow begs Weber not to use her unguarded comment on a mistress: he has done so just the same.

Even as Weber's film strips bare the pitifully frail and destructive personality of this gifted man, the spectator's sympathy for him grows, against all probability. The fragmented but dramatic narrative of this skillfully structured documentary recalls Clint Eastwood's dramatized biography of Baker's one-time colleague Charlie Parker, *Bird*. There is an odd link: when Parker died at 35 the doctors guessed his age as 60; when Baker died at 58 the Dutch police described him, despite his ruined face, as "a man of 30, with a trumpet".



Someone to lean on: Chet Baker enjoying the support of his wife Liliane in Bruce Weber's *Let's Get Lost*

## Musical fantasy, an elegy and an exercise in brutality

As in *Let's Get Lost*, collage is also the method of Fernando Solanas's *Sur (South)* (15, Cannon Premiere), which won him the prize for best direction at the Cannes Festival. As a musical-fantasy essay on recent Argentinian history, it is a sequel to Solanas's earlier *Tangos*. *Tangos* dealt with Argentinians in exile in France in the Seventies; *Sur* is about the return from prison of a victim of the military dictatorship.

Again the musical basis is a melancholy, evocative Argentine tango, sung breathily but confidently by the veteran Roberto Goyenoch. The style is all theatrical artifice, with most scenes set in night streets, photographed in predominant blue, with drifting smoke, and papers — symbolizing perhaps the printed detritus of the election that preceded the fall of the Generals — that swirl about the feet of the actors.

The hero has emerged from prison, but hesitates to return to the wife who was unfaithful during his absence. As he wanders the night town, he meets people from his past, both the living and the ghosts. A lot of the dialogues and memories in this overlong, two-hour film are likely to be elusive for British audiences, but the songs and choreography are intriguing to watch. There are some fine and often comic fantasy set-pieces, such as the library where, like a literary, civil servant reads off the titles of books and films while a chorus responds with the grounds ("Marxist", "pornographic", "subversive") on which the words of Freud, St Exupéry and Solinas himself are to be forbidden.

The actor-playwright Sam Sheppard wrote *Paris, Texas* for Wim Wenders, and the play *Pool for Love* which Robert Altman filmed. But for his own directorial debut, *Far North* (12, Cannon, Tottenham Court Road), his

script is an odd, whimsical and quite unconvincing piece of Americana. Charles Durning (over-playing, unusually) is a Minnesota veteran of two wars, who is hospitalized by a runaway horse, and irrationally vows vengeance on the poor animal. His demand that his favourite, town-dweller daughter should shoot the horse, a family pet, causes crisis in his all-female household, consisting of his spaced-out wife, country-bred daughter, trollop grand-daughter and crotchety mother-in-law who unwillingly celebrates her 100th birthday while Durning decides the fate of the horse. The dialogue, as might be expected, is bright; there are some ambitious devices; but the characters go no deeper than a series comedy.

*Lock Up* (18, Cannon Haymarket, Oxford Street, Chelsea) is an almost abstract exercise in sadism — abstract in the sense that the story that justifies the

non-stop brutality is almost nonexistent. Sylvester Stallone is (as usual) serving time despite his unquestionable innocence. He is snatched from his prison cell, with its Paul Klee posters on the wall, to be taken off to a nightmare establishment whose warden (Donald Sutherland) sets out to work off an old grudge, with every physical brutality the dull minds of the writers can think up. The director of this orgy of beating, kicking, electrocution, drowning and insult was John Flynn. Next week the National Film Theatre begins a season of the rediscovered films from the last years of Imperial Russia, which I wrote about on their first appearance at the Pordenone Film Festival last year. It is a rare chance to see films that have been hidden for more than 70 years.

Russian cinema audiences, unlike those in English-speaking countries at the time, tended to be drawn from the literate bourgeois

source of fascination. The best thing about student film-making is that all modes of expression seem open; it is only later that expediency or necessity begin shutting doors. In Martin Scorsese's student films, made at New York University in the mid 1960s, you can almost see the young director gobbling up film history, fighting through a forest of influences — from Fellini to the comedy routines of Mel Brooks — to forge his own personal style. On one level, *It's Not Just You, Murray!* — a 15-minute short presenting the life and thoughts of Murray, a smart, shady operator inordinately proud of his flashy tie and car, would seem to be a plain gagster lampoon. But the pulse of New York's mean streets is ever-present, paving the way for the celebrated films to come. Individual talent can flicker into life no matter what the restrictions. An early Ken Russell short like *Amelia and the Angel* (1958) may well have a homegrown look: no dialogue, natural lighting, tracking shots taken with a hand-held camera perilously clutched from a car or wheelchair. Yet from modest resources Russell carved a curiously touching tale about a schoolgirl (played by the daughter of Uruguay's London ambassador) seeking after angel's wings to replace a damaged pair needed for a school production. Russell's innate romanticism and talent for choreographing action are on copious display; at the time, the editor of *Amateur Movie Maker* called the film "the nearest approach to a masterpiece that any amateur has yet made."

Who knows, then, what talent will be uncovered among the student films at Expo 90? No doubt there will be more deaths and funerals. There may be dour accounts of families on the breadline; slick genre pieces consciously designed as the director's entrée into TV drama; two or three people carrying, say, a lamp-post; or, with luck, there may be some precious, iconoclastic fireworks.

## No exclusive rights to drug addiction

Clive Davis, jazz critic of *The Times*, on the truly tragic story of trumpeter Chet Baker

Chet Baker's place in the jazz pantheon would have been secured long ago if he had had the sense to follow Bix Beiderbecke's example, and die before he was 30. As it is, he lived another three decades, long enough to see his legend assailed by heroin and the changing winds of fashion. After all his restless wanderings around Europe and America, his reputation rests mainly on a handful of recordings from the early Fifties. "His experience," the American critic Nat Hentoff once noted, "is that of the young novelist who writes one or two books that last, and spends the rest of his career wondering why it never happened again."

Hentoff was writing in 1973. By that time, Baker had edged back towards regular touring, his drug problem momentarily kept at bay with methadone. At the time of his death, he was still playing music of extraordinary beauty. On his last visits to Ronnie Scott's, the sight of him perched on a stool, focusing all his strength on a ballad, was almost unbearably poignant. When he was on form, the sound that emerged transcended all his physical frailties. Once the epitome of wide-eyed, mid-Western youth, Chesney Baker first attracted attention in 1952, at the age of 22, when he joined Charlie Parker's band during one of the altoist's visits to Los Angeles. The real turning point, however, came when he linked up with the hard-core saxophonist Gerry Mulligan, on a series of dates at a bar called The Haig.

Like so many jazz milestones, the birth of the famous Baker-Mulligan quartet arose in part from pure chance. The Haig's owner had put the venue's piano in storage while playing host to the trio of the vibraphone player Red Norvo. With no piano to set the tonal centre, Mulligan was free to develop a contrapuntal style for saxophone, trumpet and bass. Baker, a technically limited performer who played by ear, immediately rose to the challenge. The group's spare and buoyant sound helped define what has become known as "West Coast Jazz", a reaction against the frenetic tempo of New York-based bebop. A haunting trumpet-led version of "My Funny Valentine" brought huge commercial success, and within a matter of months Baker was tempted to embark on a solo career, making use of his dubious singing voice. His early albums were by no means as empty as some detractors suggest, but they seldom re-kindled the chemistry of the Mulligan quartet. By the end of the Fifties he had begun the long decline into drug addiction, marked by a depressing cycle of arrests and flurries of inspiration in the studio. After a severe beating by drug dealers ruined his embouchure, he was forced to stop playing altogether for nearly three years, scraping a living by working at a petrol station.

His commercial appeal always made him suspect in some jazz

quarters. The fact that he was originally inspired by the spacious trumpet phrasing of Miles Davis was also held against him.

Like Dave Brubeck, another West Coast star, Baker was accused of riding to fame on the back of black musicians. In the Fifties, when black artists were systematically ignored by the mainstream media, the charge carried some weight. The passing of the years brings some perspective: Baker's success was more than just a question of good looks and good luck.

The backlash against the whole West Coast school — dismissing it as a pseudo-classical dilution of true jazz — did nothing for his reputation either. Some of the music which came out of Los Angeles and San Francisco undoubtedly sounds effete and pretentious today. At its best, however, the approach did open new avenues, finding original ways to fuse improvisation and composition.

Bruce Weber's film has already aroused other matters. Is it just another study of the jazz junkie, one to place alongside *Bird* and assorted Hollywood travesties? The simple but uncomfortable answer is that it is hard to make a film about the post-swing era without dwelling on the question of addiction (Charlotte Zwerin's documentary on Thelonious Monk, *Straight No Chaser*, is an exception).

In the Forties and Fifties, a generation of young musicians was



Near the end: Chet Baker in 1987 ravaged by drugs. Arduous working conditions, the "outsider" status of bebop and the creative demands on players all contributed to the phenomenon. Miles Davis's autobiography, due out next month, is a reminder of how many substances some musicians managed to consume. One of the reasons that the Mulligan-Baker quartet broke up, in fact, was that Mulligan was removed from the scene due to a 90-day sentence for possession of narcotics. Baker, sadly, was no lone misfit.

### VIDEO BOX

Geoff Brown

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of its first broadcast.

**DAD'S ARMY** (Parkfield, U): Largely successful cinema spin-off from the droll TV series, with lively performances from the Home Guard troop and adroit period atmosphere. 1971.

**THE DEADLY AFFAIR** (Parkfield, 15): John Le Carré's thriller *Call for the Dead*, expertly filmed against deliberately drab London backgrounds by director Sidney Lumet. James Mason is the Foreign Office chap who stumbles on a spy ring. 1967.

**DO THE RIGHT THING** (CIC, 18): Spike Lee's militant endorsement about racial tension on a boiling hot day in Brooklyn — a chain of sharp vignettes culminating in a full-scale street riot. With Danny Aiello as the Italian-American pizza parlour owner marooned in a black neighbourhood, and Lee himself as his black delivery boy. 1989.

**NOSEFERATU** (CBS/Fox, 15): The shadow of Murnau's silent

classic hangs heavy over Werner Herzog's treatment of the Dracula story. Frequently misjudged, but the striking moments ultimately win, and Klaus Kinski makes a memorably cadaverous blood-sucker. 1979.

**FELLINI'S CASANOVA** (CBS/Fox, 18): Opulent but morose treatment of the libertine's life and loves (a mechanical doll among them), with Donald Sutherland. Not one of Fellini's more persuasive extravaganzas. 1976.

**THE GREEN MAN** (Warner, U): Delightful farcical thriller from the Laurel-Gilliat team, with George Cole as a vacuum-cleaner salesman who accidentally thwarts Alastair Sim's assassination plans. 1956.

**KAGEMUSHA** (CBS/Fox, PG): Kurosawa's majestic epic from 1980, centred on the fate of a thief groomed as the double of a 16th-century warlord. Overstaying in the cinema, though it inevitably shrivels on video.

**RAN** (CBS/Fox, 15): *King Lear* seen through Kurosawa's visionary eyes, with Tatsuya Nakadai as an old, fraught king in a cack, crumbling universe. Grandiose drama with battles, apocalyptic sights, and excellent music by Toru Takemitsu. 1986.

## How to project your reel self

It is simple enough to learn your trade as a novelist or playwright: you live, you suck the end of your pencil, and you write. The difficulty comes in surviving financially. But what if the goal is to create feature films? This involves lights, cameras, sound equipment, an editing bench, laboratory costs. Unless one intends going the avant-garde route — making studies in the contemplation of one's navel — it also requires co-workers: actors, technicians, clapper boys, and all the other flora and fauna listed in a film's credit of credits.

One way to take the plunge would be to attend BP Expo 90, an eight-day festival sponsored by British Petroleum, beginning tomorrow in London at the Riverside Studios, Hammersmith (box office, 01-748 3354). For the second year running, the event gathers together the cream of international student films and video. There are trade stands, seminars on all aspects of the industry, and visits from assorted luminaries. Some brave souls will be bringing work from their own film school days, including Istvan Szabo from Hungary, Canada's Atom Egoyan, and Shaji Karim, the Indian director of *Piravi*.

The youngest directors dipping into their past are a talented Scottish duo from the National Film and Television School: Ian Sellar, who directed last year's fetching *Venus Peter*, and Gillies MacKinnon, whose brilliant first feature, *Conquest of the North Pole*, awaits commercial release. Both their graduation films deal with deaths in the family: student film-makers like to demonstrate they are serious. Sellar's *Albert's Memorial*, made in 1985, is a neatly mounted tale of a working-class widow coming to terms with herself and her late Albert; though it is MacKinnon's 1986 film *Passing Glory* — a pungent drama about the death of a feisty Communist grandmother — that impresses most with its confidence and passion.

Geoff Brown advises aspiring film-makers and anyone who is interested in cinema to visit Expo 90, a festival of student films opening in London tomorrow

With hindsight, however, student films can only give a mixed indication of achievements to come. Szabo's 1961 short *Concert* — in which three lads carry a piano around town — intimates a vein of lyrical surrealism hardly present in *Mephisto* and the like. On the other hand, Polanski's *Two Men and a Wardrobe* (1958) — two men carrying a wardrobe around town — flung down his credentials as a hard-edged absurdist. There are also early films whose brilliant promise led nowhere: where are the successors to Philip Trévelyan's haunting study of rural eccentricity, *The Moon and the Sledgehammer*, one of the most original British films of the early 1970s?

Exploring first films, it is best to tread carefully. There are skeletons in closets. No-one, for instance, would wish to judge Francis Coppola by *Tonight for Sure*, or *The Playgirls* and *The Bellboy*, or other pornography cheerfully undertaken while a student at the University of South Carolina. Fans of Ridley Scott's sleek designer angst might become impatient with *Boy and Bicycle*, a half-hour short made in 1965 for the British Film Institute's Production Board, in which a roaming camera follows a boy, and his bike, as he plays truant in North Shields.

Yet whatever the achievement, directors' first efforts are always a

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## Peter Waymark

● As someone who would happily trade the entire output of French, Saunders, Edmondson and company for two minutes of Les Dawson, I am commending *The Comic Strip Presents...* (BBC2, 9.00pm) in the knowledge that millions will disagree. And rather than go on about gifted people (also involved tonight are Nigel Planer, Robbie Coltrane and Lenny Henry) squandering their comic talent in raucous horse-play, I will simply tell you the team's opening escapade (continued next week) involves French and Saunders as ornithologists trapped on the Falkland Islands as Argentina's General Galtieri decides to re-invoke. Enter Planer as a radio ham who calls in Edmondson and friends to mount an eventual rescue mission.

Hider introduces tonight's coverage of the Games in Auckland, with seven golds to be won in athletics. The commentators are David Coleman, Ron Pickering and Brendan Foster. Plus bowls, badminton, judo and shooting

Directed by Edwin L. Marin  
**3.40 Profiles of Hall and Oates**  
**4.00 News headlines followed by**  
**Three's Company.** Comedy series  
**4.30 America's Top Ten**  
**5.00 ITN Morning News with Christabel**  
**King.** Ends at 6.00

**TV WALES** As HTV West except 8.00-8.30am Wales at Six 7.30-8.00am the Fold 10.30 Wales this Week 11.00 Pugby 1.35 Wales & Westminster 1.50 Better Late 6.05am-12.35 Cover Story (Chaka Khan)

**COTTISH** As London except 1.00pm-1.30 Scotland Today 5.10-5.40 Home

**NETWORK 2** Starts 2:30pm Bosco 3:00  
 Shorts 3:30 Firststone 4:00  
 Pat's Pals 4:30 Happy Birthday 4:45 Wonderstruck  
 5:25 Dick Turpin 6:00 Jo Mac 6:30 Home and Away  
 7:00 Nusch 7:05 Cursal 7:30 Dirty Dancing 8:00  
 Double House MD 8:30 Marketplace 9:00 Kate and  
 Allie 9:30 Street Legal 10:30 News 10:50 Nightlights  
 11:30 Eve Deconstructs Cleopatra 12:00 News/Notes

● Full information on satellite TV programmes is available in the weekly magazine, **TV Guide**.

**WORLD SERVICE**

under Garrett O'Brien; Williamson (Trio for violin, cello and piano "In Memoriam of Sir Arthur Bliss": Western Arts Trio; Cantata: Procession of Palms: Worcester Festival Choral Society; Worcester Cathedral Choir under Donald Hunt; Vision of Christ, Phoenix: Allen Weeks, organ of Coventry Cathedral).


**12.00** News; You and Yours w/ John Howard  
**12.35** *Pass The Sausage*: Six plain by Bob Sinfield. 5: *Smell With Rodney Bewes* as and Liz Fraser as Vera  
**12.55** Weather  
**1.00** The World at One with James Naughtie  
**1.40** The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast  
**2.00** News; Woman's Hour: Presented by Jenni Murray

Whisker  
telescope: Presented by  
Stephen Cook. Anne  
interviews author David  
Fisman and reviews his  
*See Under: Love*, an  
account of the Jewish  
caust; and the Redmond  
column reports on the  
Forest exhibition at the  
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Weather.

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**Michael Heseltine: talks**

- Two recommended interviews: Peter Hennessy's with Michael Heseltine in *Analysis* (Radio 4, 8.00pm), and Clive James, with the author, on *Bookclub* (Radio 4, 8.00pm).

**11.00** and no contacts  
**11.00** Composers of the Week:  
 Radio 1: Schumann (David-  
 bundleritze, op. 10);  
 Fachsprachswenk aus Wien  
 (r)  
**12.00** News 12.00pm Close

**FREQUENCIES:** Radio 1: 1053kHz/258m; 1089kHz/277m; FM 97.5-99.1  
 (London area FM 104.8); Radio 2: 683kHz/433m; 693kHz/530m; FM 90.2-  
 90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m; FM 90-92.4. Radio 4: 199kHz/1515m; FM  
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 95.8. Greater London Radio: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; World Service: MW  
 648kHz/463m.



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Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6805 (-0.0005)  
W. German mark 2.6311 (+0.0050)  
Exchange Index 89.0 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1964.0 (+11.0)  
FT-SE 100 2337.3 (+15.3)  
USM (Datastream) 155.63 (+0.23)

Market report, page 27

SeaCon  
'intent  
on a deal'

Sea Containers remains intent on selling parts of its British ferry and container businesses to Temple Holdings despite repeated delays because of legal work, a New York analyst said yesterday.

The board seems to have leaned over backwards to say "we are going to do this deal," said Mr. Michael Carstens, of Tuckers Authority.

The deadline for agreement expired yesterday without any statements. Comment, page 25

Textiles up

Profits at Allied Textile Companies rose 12 per cent to £13.3 million in the year to September. A final dividend of 7.4p (6.8p) makes 11.5p, up 8 per cent. *Temper, page 24*

Cray losses

Cray Electronics is passing its interim dividend following half-year losses of \$5.6 million. A final dividend is not expected. *Temper, page 24*

STOCK MARKETS

New York: Dow Jones 2573.87 (+30.85)  
Nikkei Average 37188.95 (-88.72)  
Hang Seng 2751.60 (-4.20)  
ASX All-Ord 1120.00 (-0.50)  
Sydney All-Ord 1677.00 (-18.30)  
Frankfurt DAX 1822.78 (+10.21)  
Borsa Italiana 8237.14 (-22.82)  
Paris CAC 519.20 (-5.11)  
Zurich SMI 604.2 (+4.3)  
London: FT-30 Share 1964.0 (+11.0)  
FT-100 2337.3 (+15.3)  
FT-1000 1157.15 (+5.91)  
FT-10000 1299.30 (+4.48)  
FT-100000 689.00 (-1.45)  
FT-1000000 91.08 (+0.18)  
FT-10000000 81.55 (-0.08)

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ARM Group 230p (+10p)  
Nu-Swift 487p (+10p)  
Rank Org 603p (+10p)

FALLS:

Ling Prop 573p (-21p)  
Borland 757p (-15p)  
Lester 100p (-18p)  
Unilever 371p (-11p)  
Wellcome 713p (-10p)  
East-West 'A' 275p (-20p)  
Preston 988p (-14p)  
P. Bilton 450p (-10p)

Interest Rates

London Bank Base: 15%  
3-month interbank 15.5-15.75%  
3-month eligible bills 14.1-14.25%  
UK Prime Rate 10%  
Federal Funds 5.75-6.00%  
3-month Treasury Bills 7.75-7.74%  
30-year bonds 9.5-9.55%

CURRENCIES

London: \$1.6805  
DM2.6311  
SF2.5199  
FF5.2501  
Yen242.83  
Index39.0  
SCU £2.720580  
ECU1.367816  
SDR1.267138

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$417.55 PM \$415.05  
Close \$412.50-413.00 (\$245.50-246.00)  
New York: COMEX \$411.70-412.20

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar) \$19.80 bbl (\$19.90)  
Dudman latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.26	2.08
Austria Sch	2.26	2.08
Belgium Fr	2.26	2.08
Canada \$	2.26	2.08
Denmark Kr	11.37	10.77
France Fr	7.05	6.55
Germany DM	2.26	2.08
Greece Dr	2.26	2.08
Hong Kong \$	13.76	12.86
India Rupee	1.12	1.06
Italy Lira	2.26	2.08
Japan Yen	2.26	2.08
Netherlands Gld	3.31	3.13
Norway Kr	11.41	10.75
Portugal Esc	2.26	2.08
South Africa Rd	4.86	4.36
Spain Ptas	169.76	177.75
Sweden Kr	10.86	10.36
Switzerland Fr	2.26	2.08
Turkey Lira	4.86	4.36
USA \$	1.75	1.65
Yugoslavia Dnr	2.26	2.08

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.  
Retail Price Index: 118.8 (December)

Siemens wins £300m UK power station contract



Karlheinz Kaske: success

By Derek Harris  
Industrial Editor

Siemens of West Germany has beaten international competition, including three British tenders, to win a turnkey contract worth about £300 million for a new generation gas-fired power station planned on Humberbank by PowerGen.

The British companies which put in tenders were the General Electric Company (GEC), Northern Engineering Industries (now part of Rolls-Royce, the aircraft engine makers) and John Brown (part of Trafalgar House group). They were beaten on price, said Mr Ed Wallis, chief executive of PowerGen, which

is the smaller of the two electricity producers emerging at privatization of the Central Electricity Generating Board.

It means equipment like the turbines for the 900 megawatt station will be manufactured in Germany by Siemens, which is headed by Herr Karlheinz Kaske. But there is expected to be a British supply element of about 40 per cent of the contract value mainly because of the construction work involved.

The power station, at Killingholme, south Humberside, is the first new contract to be let, with consent from the Department of Energy, since PowerGen and National Power were created. Both had applied for consent to build a station at Killingholme where the site had already been assigned for that purpose. The Department of Energy may have been swayed

Comment.....25

in PowerGen's favour because it already had a gas supply deal lined up.

It will be the first major British station using combined cycle gas turbine technology. This achieves 50 per cent efficiency against the 35 per cent of conventional coal-fired stations. This should help

PowerGen pursue its strategy of being a low-cost as well as reliable producer of electricity, Mr Wallis said.

Killingholme will also be kinder to the environment than present coal and oil fired stations because of fewer emissions. There is virtually no sulphur dioxide produced and less of the greenhouse effect gases, carbon dioxide and nitrogen dioxide.

Killingholme will be taking most of the production of the Pickering gas field being operated by Arco off the Lincolnshire coast. The plan is to build a £20 million pipeline to bring the gas to shore and across country

to Killingholme. Pickering, developed at a cost of £200 million, is expected to have a production life of at least 25 years.

Killingholme is expected to be the first of a series of new power stations for PowerGen which believes it will need up to 15,000 megawatts of additional capacity by the early years of the next century.

Preliminary site preparation is due to start next month and about 300 jobs will be created when the construction phase begins in the summer.

The power station will need an operational staff of about 50 when completed in October 1992

Elders poised to place 23.7% stake in S&N

By Angela Mackay

Elders IXL, the Australian conglomerate which owns Courage in Britain, will place its 23.7 per cent stake in Scottish & Newcastle next week and plans to announce a pub-for-brewery swap with Grand Metropolitan by mid-February.

Several market-makers have tendered to place the S&N stake with institutions at about 32p.

At this price, Elders - headed by Mr John Elliott and an unsuccessful bidder at £1.6 billion for S&N in 1988 - will realize a £47 million loss on top of holding costs of about £65 million.

S&N is co-operating with Elders on the placement. Mr Alick Rankin, its chairman, is in Australia with most of Elders' senior London-based executives.

S&N shares ended 4p higher at 334p after touching a high of 339p.

The shares started the week at 328p and have suffered volatile swings for some time. Elders is announcing a significant restructuring on Monday.

Heavy borrowings, credit downgrades and a generally poor perception of highly-gearred Australian companies had forced Elders to look closely at non-core businesses.

It is expected to refocus on brewing and agribusiness - its traditional interests - and to sell, among other assets, El-

ders Finance's loan book, a 10 per cent slice of Goodman Fielder Wattie, the Australian food company, and 13.9 per cent of Greene, King & Sons, the British regional brewer.

At the end of December, for example, Elders Finance sold its treasury activities to Dresdner Bank and soon after, shut the treasury operation in London.

Elders has been selling non-core assets since the end of its last financial year on June 30, reducing group debt to an estimated Aus\$1.8 billion (£817 million).

As a key part of this strategy, the group will try to announce a deal with GrandMet to coincide with the release of its interim profits on February 14.

GrandMet already brews Foster's, Elders' premium lager, under licence to supplement brewing capacity at Courage.

Elders signalled it was closer to clinching the long-expected move when it took up a £250 million call option over the Courage Pub Co last week.

The sale and leaseback deal with Hudson Conway, Elders' partner in the PubCo venture, must be dissolved by December 6.

This will give Elders full control over its 5,000 Courage pubs.

It would also allow it to bring assets back on to the balance sheet and afford it the power to engineer an asset

swap with Grand Metropolitan.

Sources at the British group said the deal was "pending" but emphasized the complications provided by GrandMet's licensing agreements with Carlsberg, Budweiser and Holsten.

Elders will gain more than 50 per cent of GrandMet's brewing business in the deal.

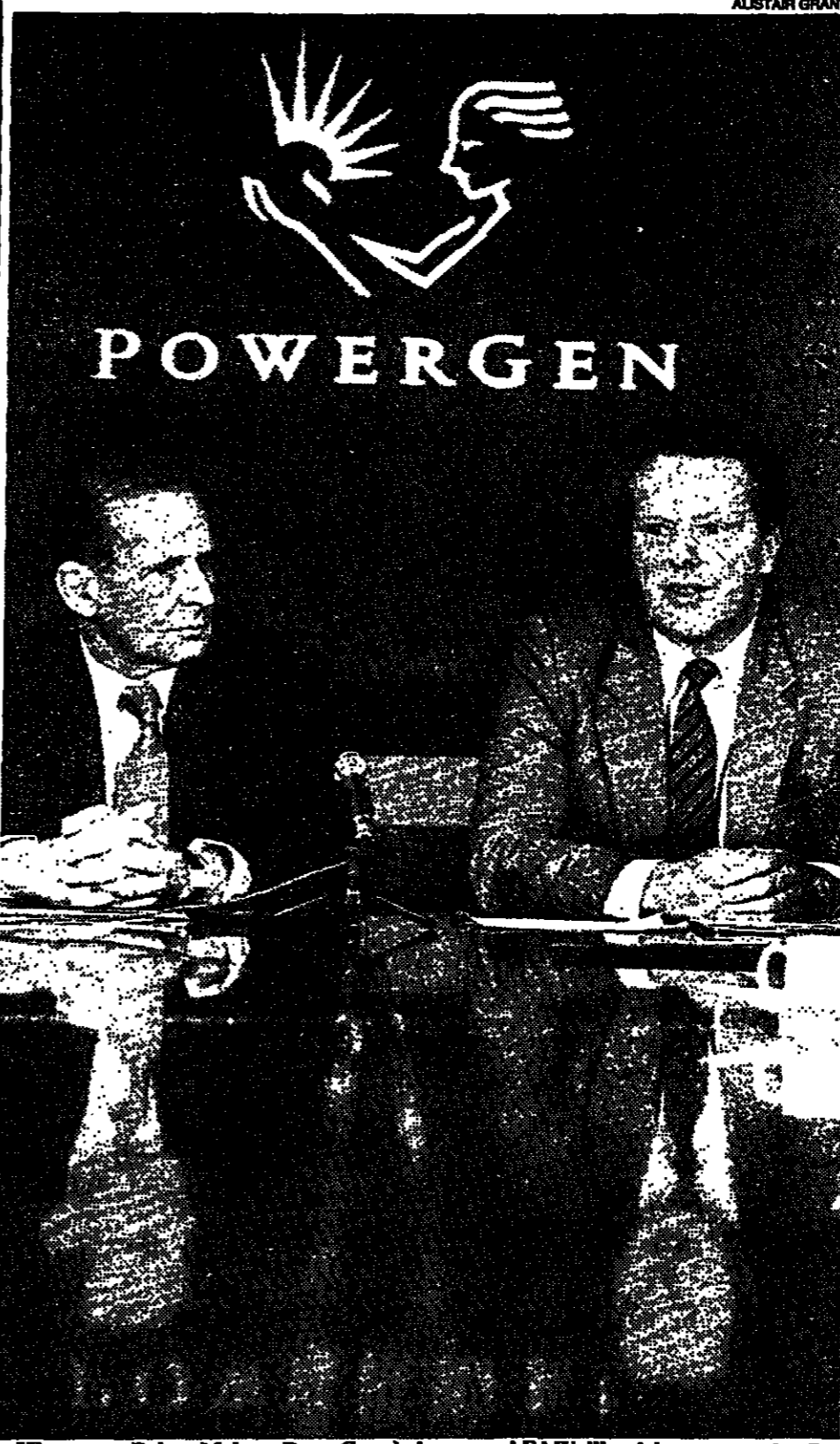
Neither the Australian nor the British company have much spare cash, particularly after GrandMet paid \$5.23 billion for Pillsbury, owner of Burger King, in the US.

Some analysts have mooted that Harlin, the company formed by Elders' executives which bid Aus\$2.57 for Elders in a novel move last year, is also looking at the PubCo for brewing deal to reduce its holding in Elders to less than 50 per cent.

Harlin, which has debts of Aus\$2.85 billion, according to Mr Terry Povey, Australian stocks analyst at ANZ McCaughan, the broker, may seek to accomplish this by inducing GrandMet - or another - to underwrite a share placing.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission's report into the brewing industry has been the catalyst for the deal between Elders and GrandMet.

GrandMet already has an Aus\$50 million investment in Harlin, injected at the time the bid was announced in early August.



Here power: Robert Malpas, PowerGen chairman, and Ed Wallis, giving contract details

Electricity profits projection cut back

By Graham Searjeant

Mr John Wakeham, the Energy Secretary, is understood to have reached agreement on the complex structure of electricity supply contracts between generating companies and the 12 distribution companies.

The contracts, some of which are likely to be approved shortly, have been the greatest stumbling block in setting up the new electricity market in advance of privatization.

Flotations are due to start with the distribution companies this summer and be completed by the two integrated Scottish boards by the summer of 1991.

Mr Wakeham has confirmed that vesting day, when the assets of the old Central Electricity Generating Board and the regional electricity boards are vested in the new companies, will be March 31.

This confounds fears of further slippage at this stage in the privatization timetable.

But the structure of the contracts, and the Government's desire to avoid a further big round of electricity price rises before privatization, will cut starting profits of National Power and PowerGen, the two non-nuclear generating companies, well below what was envisaged at one time.

Assets will be written down to maintain healthy returns on capital employed.

City estimates suggest that the sale value of the entire industry in England and Wales may be less than £10 billion, with as little as £3 billion for National Power and PowerGen.

The generating companies were originally thought likely to account for a much higher proportion of the total privatization proceeds.

Charges bite into WH Smith profit

By Colin Campbell

WH Smith, the high street books-to-DIY group, believes much of the consumer gloom has passed it by, reporting good Christmas trading and strong sales in January.

Sir Simon Hornby, the chairman, said trading profit from continuing business rose by an effective 18.9 per cent to 247 million in the 26 weeks to December 2, although the group turned in a lower interim pre-tax profit because of higher interest charges.

The interest charge jumped from £6.5 million to £11.8 million which in turn clipped half time pre-tax profits from £41.8 million to £35.1 million. There were no property sales in the latest period, and the latest period covers 26 weeks compared with a 27-week trading period previously.

The shares fell from 320p to 300p as analysts gave a mixed

Pound inches up to Lawson level

By Our Economics Staff

The pound continued to make small gains in the foreign exchange market, extending the recovery from the post-Lawson fall. Against the mark, it closed in London up about half a penny at DM2.8312 and against the dollar was virtually unchanged at \$1.6805, leaving the effective exchange index 0.1 higher at 89 after a high of 89.1.

The pound has now recovered three quarters of its fall from the low point just after Christmas of 85.8, closing yesterday 1.2 per cent below the 90.1 at which it closed before Mr Nigel Lawson resigned as Chancellor of the Exchequer on October 26.

The US Commerce Department's index of leading indicators rose 0.8 per cent in December to 145.7, seasonally adjusted. This compared with an increase in November of

0.1 per cent and market forecasts of about 0.5 per cent.

The Confederation of British Industry yesterday called for a reversal of the divergence between pay and productivity growth so as to avoid further job losses.

The appeal followed Tuesday's CBI warnings that the economy is near to recession.

Mr Rod Thomas, the CBI's director of employment affairs, told a London conference that the cutback last year of 42,000 jobs in manufacturing would be just a foretaste of what was to come, if wage rises continued to outpace productivity gains.

● Woolwich Building Society says mortgage rates could be two percentage points lower by the end of this year, with base rates on the way down by summer to reach 13 per cent by the end of the year.

Former chairman says he had no influence or power

Barnett 'was edged out of Dominion'

By Martin Walker

Lord Barnett, the former Labour Cabinet minister and now vice chairman of the BBC, has broken his silence over his involvement in the affairs of Dominion International Group, the crashed financial services conglomerate once run by Mr Max Lewinsohn.

Lord Barnett said he felt he was edged out as chairman at Dominion in November by attempts by large shareholders, orchestrated by two substantial shareholders, to go over his head and organize a rescue package.

The two were the brothers Mr Rupert Galliers-Pratt and Mr Nigel Cayzer, whose Film Finance company was bought by Dominion in April for shares, bringing them on to the board.

"There were discussions taking place between the brothers and the banks

without any reference to me," he said. "I just wasn't involved, I had no influence or power. I said I don't like this position and I'm resigning."

The rescue plan, which would have seen the shares repurchased at 5p and the company valued at just £3.5 million, fell apart after the banks, who are owed more than £100 million between them, refused

Firm with many faces.....28

to support it. Price Waterhouse was appointed administrator last month.

Lord Barnett was countering criticism among institutional shareholders of his role as chairman. He was brought in as deputy in November 1987 because of his links with Mr Lewinsohn through Top Value Industries, now Conrad Continental, where he is chairman and where Mr Lewinsohn sold his stake last year. In

December 1988 Lord Barnett became chairman at the instigation of a group of shareholders, including the two brothers, who were becoming increasingly concerned at Dominion's financial affairs and the treatment of various earlier acquisitions and disposals in the accounts. He was asked by shareholders to investigate.

The other non-executive who stood down with Lord Barnett, Mr John Clarke, a director of Robertson Research, the mining group, said he believed Mr Galliers-Pratt and Mr Cayzer had contributed to the collapse of Dominion. He said there was "no obvious foundation" to the allegations Lord Barnett was required to investigate. He believed that as the brothers progressed their rescue plans last year, the non-executives had been increasingly isolated.

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# Shake-up by AmEx after Cohen's exit at Shearson

By Neil Bennett and James Bone

The American Express Company has radically shaken up Shearson Lehman Hutton, its 61 per cent securities subsidiary, in an attempt to halt its tumbling share price.

Mr Peter Cohen, Shearson's president and the man who one of the US's largest securities groups, resigned on Tuesday night after a row with Mr James Robinson III, AmEx's chairman.

He is being replaced by Mr Howard Clark, AmEx's chief financial officer.

At the same time, Shearson has announced it is cancelling its planned 20 million share offer, and replacing it with a 21 million share rights issue which will be fully underwritten by AmEx.

Last week, Shearson's shares fell to a low of \$100 amidst fears on Wall Street that the company's share offer would not succeed. Shearson has been forced to raise an extra \$850 million (£506 million) capital, of which the offer was a part, after being threatened with a credit downgrading by Moody's, the rating agency.

The downgrading would have taken Shearson from 3A to a B grade, and cost it up to \$40 million a year in higher interest charges.

News of Mr Cohen's departure and the rights issue helped Shearson's shares stage a recovery to \$111 yesterday.

After the rights, AmEx will reduce its stake in Shearson to 45 per cent, via a special dividend of up to 23 million Shearson shares to AmEx shareholders, allowing AmEx to take the firm's debt off its balance sheet.

The departure of Mr Cohen is a body blow to a one-time wunderkind of Wall Street. He became president and chief executive of Shearson in 1983, two years after Shearson Loeb Rhodes was acquired by American Express, and became chairman when it took over Lehman Brothers Kuhn Loeb in 1984.

But it was the \$960 million merger with EF Hutton, the largest deal in the US securities industry, that established Mr Cohen's pre-eminence.

Since then Shearson has fallen victim to the overcapacity problems that face all major US securities firms.

"The moral of this story is that in order to successfully run a people business you must have a leader at the top who everyone can respect and that leader must have humility and respect relative to the people who work with him," said Mr Perrin Long, a veteran analyst at Lipper Analytical Services. "I don't think Peter

## ASC set to provoke storm on goodwill

By Graham Searjeant

The Accounting Standards Committee is set to unleash a further storm in the profession, and among finance directors, this morning when it issues its revised proposals on the treatment of goodwill on acquisitions in company balance sheets.

In conjunction with a second exposure draft on mergers and acquisitions, it is expected to require acquiring companies to write off goodwill in equal annual instalments from profits, usually over 20 years.

Most companies at present use the option of writing the whole of acquired goodwill — the excess of purchase price over balance sheet value — immediately against reserves, so that it has no effect on reported profits.

Earlier drafts led to outright opposition from some professional accountants and also from big acquisitive companies. But Mr Michael Renshall, the ASC chairman, said that immediate write-offs could deplete balance sheets in a ridiculous way.

Thus far, only companies with insufficient reserves have usually adopted the method of writing goodwill off against profits.

If ASC changes the rules, it would bring British practice in line with the United States.

The revised draft is expected to retreat from outright opposition to incorporating the value of acquired brands in balance sheets as a separate item from goodwill, but would require brand values to be written off in the same way.

## COMMENT David Brewerton

# A great many leaves on the SeaCon line

Waiting for the fine print of Sea Containers' proposed deal with Temple Holdings is not unlike waiting for the 9.43 train from Brentwood to Liverpool Street: there seem an awful lot of leaves on the line.

Wherever and whenever Sea Containers' James Sherwood puts a deal together there are bound to be nervous onlookers, but some of them are being reduced to wrecks by the long delays in fixing contracts for the sale of the container rental and Sealink Ferry businesses for about \$1 billion.

As yet another deadline passed in New York yesterday, doubts left the Sea Containers share price languishing at \$59. Although this was a couple of dollars higher than Tuesday's close, in line with other oversold "situation stocks," it was still far below the benchmark \$70 against which Sherwood seems to have set his reputation.

The \$1 billion deal with Temple, if it is still a deal, was arrived at nearly three weeks ago as the stunning climax to the takeover bid which began in London on May 26 last year when Temple offered \$824 million for the entire Sealink empire. Sherwood's empire is in no great financial shape, but despite the siege which has been laid by Temple (which consists of Tiphook from Britain and Stena from Sweden), he has managed to outsmart and defeat the consortium at nearly every turn.

Had he been obliged to play under

Takeover Panel rules, he would have found the Houdini act more difficult to pull off. The Panel would have heard the chains rattling long before he emerged from the sack.

We have to accept, until we hear otherwise, that the deals will go ahead and that Sherwood will deliver what he has promised to his own shareholders. Details of the recapitalization plan have yet to emerge, but with a billion dollars of Temple money in his pocket, Sherwood ought to be able to mix a Manhattan cocktail potent enough to suit the most sophisticated tastes.

Even so, there are hurdles still to be cleared, including shareholders approval, and before Stena is able to hoist its own flag on the old Sealink British ferries, a year will probably have elapsed.

A year has similarly elapsed between the moment when the Tiphook board decided that Sea Containers' containers would look nice with a Tiphook label on them and the time when they actually change hands.

Tiphook's involvement with the bid brought to an end a convincing period of outperformance for Tiphook shares, and the directors, when they are sure they have a watertight deal with Sea Containers, will have to concentrate a deal of effort in persuading investors that they have not overpaid for a huge inflexible asset at the wrong point in the trade cycle.

## Summer blues for Colorvision



Expanding Colorvision's chain of stores: Neville Michaelson, second right, Colorvision's chairman, with, from left, Nigel Elton, finance director, Bernard Michaelson, property and investment director, and Colin Lewis, a director

Colorvision has felt the effects of hotter competition in the television and video retailing market and seen pre-tax profits drop 7.7 per cent to £3.4 million for the year ending September (Sam Parkhouse writes).

Mr Neville Michaelson, the chairman, says that the exceptionally fine summer and the Government's policy of discouraging consumer spending led to shrinking sales throughout the industry.

Colorvision, which still managed to dominate in the North-east, experienced a 1 per cent drop in profit margins.

Mr Michaelson says that people became wary of buying

satellite television dishes because of a fear that they might be rendered obsolete when British Satellite Broadcasting joins Sky as a programme provider.

Mr Michaelson said that the rise in turnover, to £33.59 million from £24.58 million, was almost entirely due to an increase in the number of

stores, from 44 to 59 in the year. Since the year-end, a further 10 have opened. Colorvision hopes to have a 20 per cent market share throughout the country eventually.

The year's dividend rises 12.9 per cent via a final of 2.95p, making 4.9p, on earnings per share down 7.8 per cent to 10.6p.

## Profits are pumped up at Reebok

The Pump, the latest craze in sports shoes, is helping to restore the fortunes of Reebok International.

Reebok, 31.8 per cent owned by Britain's Pentland Industries, reports a massive recovery in profits in the Christmas quarter, from \$6.72 million to just under \$35 million (£20.8 million), topping the previous best fourth quarter, 1987.

It boasts profits for the year to December 31 from \$137 million to \$175 million.

Pre-tax profits, in sterling terms, rise from £129.7 million to £177.6 million, of which £34.2 million is attributable to Pentland after tax.

Analysts predict that Pentland will turn in 1989 pre-tax profits of about £70 million, up from £58.7 million.

## Discos head for centre stage

John Wakeham, the Energy Secretary, is winning some grudging compliments from the electricity industry for the way he is pushing through the intractable obstacles to electricity privatization one by one — albeit at the expense of most of the original principles.

But time is still running short. On the informal timetable being developed, the 12 distribution companies (or discos) will be sold in November, with National Power and PowerGen following together in February.

The two integrated Scottish boards (even more heavily depleted than National Power by the loss of nuclear stations) would probably finish the process in the summer of 1991.

Perhaps the most rapid change, however, has been in the price targets for selling the industry, which could now be as low as £10 billion. Despite the elimination of nuclear power, which had acquired an almost negative stock market value, the likely sale price of the two main generating companies has been falling.

There are a number of causes. The structure of the supply contracts appears to have favoured the discos rather than the generators. The Government is anxious to avoid any further real price increases in advance of privatization after the two-year rise of 15 per cent above inflation. This was to pay for a

massive investment programme which has now magically disappeared, in part because the switch to replacement gas turbine stations has cut the desired margin of spare capacity.

It will also be impossible for the Government to claim that there will be genuine and increasing competition without equally raising the apparent risk to investors — especially in National Power's initial 50 per cent share of the market.

Finally, growth prospects may be unexciting since outsiders such as ICI, which plan to generate for themselves, are expected to account for nearly all the increased generating capacity.

The high returns on capital employed that will be required by the private sector may therefore have to be achieved by writing down the assets of the two generators. Mr Wakeham will not want to take this too far, however, since that would make it even harder for new entrants to compete. National Power and PowerGen therefore have a strong vested interest in writing off as much as possible and thereby reducing their sale price. Depending on which way that debate goes, the two together might end up being sold for £4 billion or even less.

This will make the discos — which might collectively fetch £5.5 to £6 billion, the centrepiece of the privatization rather than the overture.

## Optical and Medical up to £3.6m

By Sam Parkhouse

Strong civil aerospace orders helped Optical and Medical to a 5 per cent pre-tax profit growth to £3.6 million in the six months to September.

Aeroplane fuselage and structural design activity enjoyed good demand, and accounted for more than 30 per cent of the turnover of £28.8 million (£27.7 million).

Omitex Instrumentation, which serves the main car manufacturers, has expanded to meet growing demand in the field of hand-held diagnostic equipment.

The interim dividend is lifted from 1.65p to 1.75p on earnings per share of 5.2p (5p). The shares were unchanged at 112p.

## Peking near deal on HK Telecom

From Lulu Yu, Hong Kong

A complex deal by Peking's China International Trust and Investment Corp (Citic) to finance its purchase of 20 per cent of Hong Kong Telecom Communications is expected to be finalized by next week.

The arrangement involves HK\$7 billion (£532 million) in bank loans, and the issue of Hong Kong Telecom warrants to raise another HK\$1 billion. Citic is buying from Cable and Wireless, which owns 76 per cent of Hong Kong Telecom, for about HK\$10 billion. If successful, the deal will be the largest ever Chinese investment in the colony.

Citic, China's main investment arm, has been on an expansion track recently, last

month acquiring a 38 per cent stake in Hong Kong's second airline, Dragonair.

It has appointed Barclays Bank co-ordinator for the Hong Kong Telecom acquisition, and is expected to announce details of the financing within a fortnight.

Officials of Citic, Cable and Wireless and Barclays have been busy securing support for the deal from banks in Tokyo and Europe since last week.

Mr John Sunderland, head of Barclays' merchant banking division in Hong Kong, said that response from Japan had been "extremely positive".

Hong Kong Telecom's capitalization is about 10 per cent of the colony's stock market.

## Burton wins court battle with Revenue

By Gillian Bowditch

Burton Group has won its High Court battle with the Inland Revenue over its controversial share option scheme. This means that the scheme will continue to have Revenue approval for tax purposes.

The Revenue challenged the Burton scheme because of the flexibility of the targets it set its senior managers. The Revenue told the court that it objected to any provision which enabled the company to impose a task or vary an existing task after the option had been granted.

Burton argued its scheme would become a lottery if it had to set targets three years in advance.

## New home for CSV oil team

Tony Mackintosh, who helped build up the top-ranked oil team at Wood Mackenzie in the 1970s and early 1980s — and stayed on as a director of Hill Samuel when the rest of his WoodMac colleagues moved on to County — hopes that history is about to repeat itself at his new employment abode, Laing & Cruckshank. For Mackintosh, who joined L&C at the start of January, as head of institutional research and marketing, has just recruited the three-man oil team from the ruins of Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers. They are analysts Arthur Hepler, who once worked for BP, and Philip Morgan, and specialist salesman Wilf Wilde. "I started talking to them before CSV made its announcement," says Mackintosh, who adds that Morgan will be the lead analyst in the team, with Hepler concentrating on utilities — "water and, increasingly, electricity." Wilde will be their main salesman. "What we are creating is really an oil and utilities team," explains Mackintosh. The newcomers will join L&C's existing oil team, Elizabeth Butler, who hitherto ran the team, will, after six years with the firm, be leaving.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Green's crystal ball

Following our recap of the past winners of the *Guardian's* Young Businessmen of the Year award — which included John Ashcroft, chairman of Colson — a reader reminds me that his fellow director, the company's amiable chief executive Philip Green, was cited as one of the "Forty under

Forty" businessmen to watch in *Business* magazine last October. Green's reported quote then... "I'm unlikely to be satisfied if I'm doing the same job for the same size business for the next 10 years." As my amateur contributor quite rightly concludes, "Clearly a man with foresight!"



## Holy not crude


After the revelation in the *City Diary* of BP's new London office, complete with its own chapel, the Rev Bernard Croft writes from York to recount the tale of two bishops walking from St Pancras station towards Russell Square. Upon passing the parish church with its portico and caryatids one remarked to the other: "I've often wondered who those women are on that church porch." "Why," came the reply, "don't you know; they are the five foolish virgins," (of St Matthew, chapter 25). "But," said the first, "there are only four of them." "That's right," his companion replied, "one's away for the oil."

● The manager of a small manufacturing firm in Switzerland received a memo from his boss. It read: "You have been working very hard for the company in the past 12 months, and I would like to give you this cheque (for £3,000). If you perform well this year, I will sign it."

## Master and pupil

A one-time lecturer and one of his students will be reunited at Cresvale, the Hays Wharf market-maker in equity-related securities — best known for Japanese warrants and convertibles — when Kevin Connolly joins the firm on Monday. Connolly, aged 41, has resigned as head of quantitative research at James Capel — in 1988 he set up its options, futures and warrants department in Sydney, Australia — to become head of futures and options sales and trading at Cresvale. He will be rubbing shoulders with George Phillips, aged 25, to whom he taught econometrics and forecasting at the City of London Polytechnic, in Moorgate. Connolly and Phillips worked together at Capels, where they earned a reputation for being workaholics, often working in 30-hour shifts to follow the Japanese market. The appointment of Connolly, who has no fewer than three degrees and a PhD — his thesis was a "multi-variate study of the distribution of commodity futures prices with a view to constructing portfolio trading rules" — will mean Cresvale's first move into the futures and options market. The firm is also diversifying into fund management, with Lester Pench, from Target Investment Management, becoming the founding managing director of Cresvale International Asset Management. Although Cresvale refuses to pass comment, market sources conclude that the launch of a warrant fund cannot be far away.

Carol Leonard



You want a home security system, but you've heard that most alarms are ignored.

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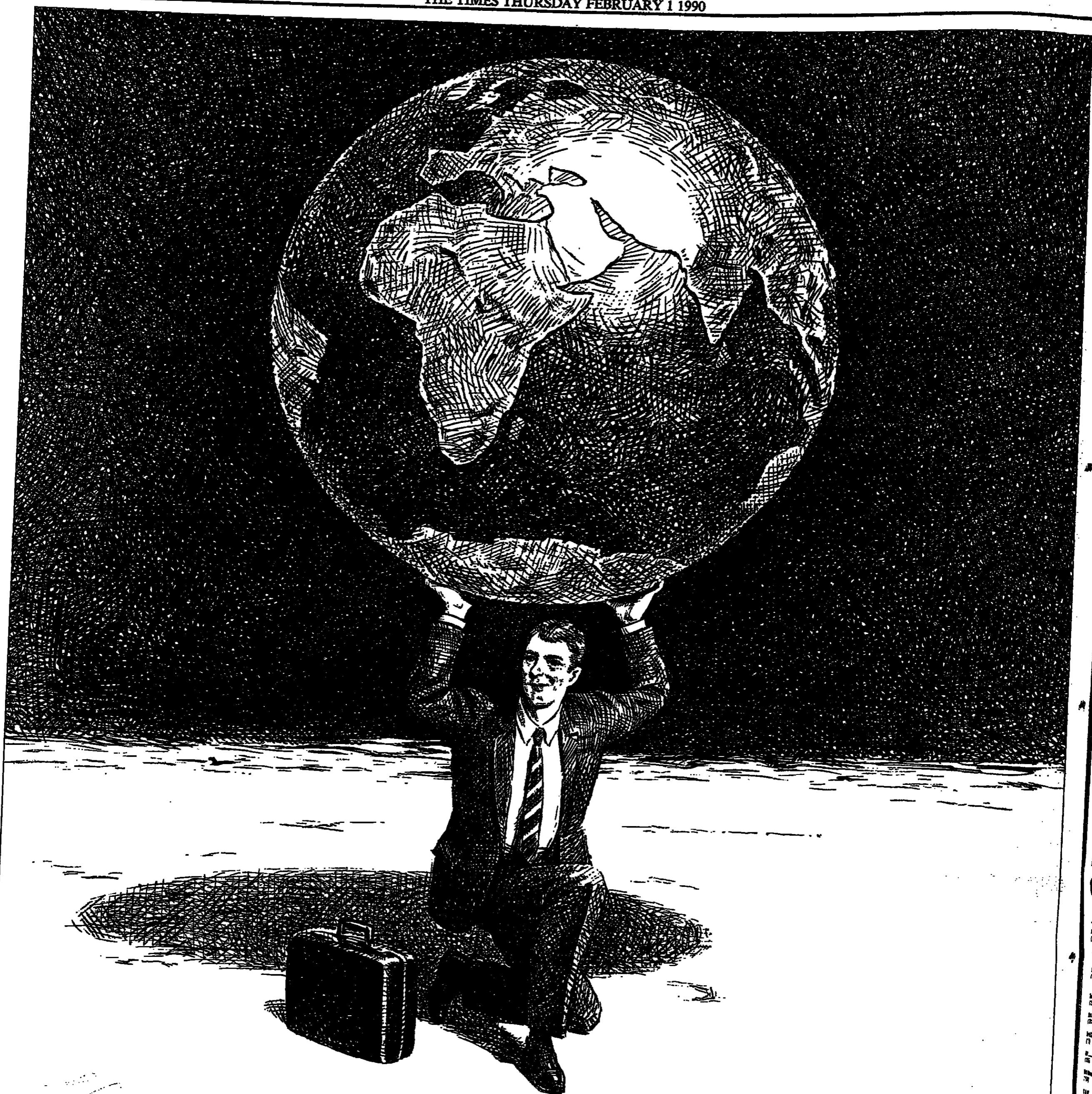
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## THE DOMINION COLLAPSE

# Downfall of a firm with many faces

**Dominion International has had many claims to fame. Now the spotlight is firmly trained on its failure. Martin Waller charts its decline**

A few years ago, Dominion was best known among investors for two things: its former chairman and leading light, Mr Max Lewinsohn, had the longest hair in the City, and the company used to offer cheap funerals to its shareholders.

In the City itself, however, Dominion has always had other claims to fame, among them the rapidity with which it changed its financial advisers and a whiff of doubt which has always hung over the firm.

Mr Lewinsohn's high profile, however, attracted a raft of smaller shareholders drawn by the explosive earnings growth he was managing in the early years.

"Many people in the City felt he was too clever for them," one early investor recalls. "When I looked at the share register, it was all small shareholders who were tempted in because it was a go-go stock. There were no big institutions in there."

"The institutions couldn't make head or tail of the strategy of the company — nor did they trust the quality of its earnings."

The somewhat morbid shareholders' perk ended in February, 1988, when the Dundee Crematorium, Mr Lewinsohn's base into which he moved in the mid-1970s, was sold to Great Southern, the funeral group, for £1.4 million. Many believe the real decline in Dominion's fortunes started around then.

Dominion has another claim to fame now: it is one of, so far, only a handful of quoted companies to have been pushed into collapse during the current downturn.

The appointment of Price Waterhouse as administrator last month effectively put a cap on frantic attempts at a rescue by the new manage-

ment and groups of shareholders.

What is clear is that at its suspension price last September — way below its share price peak — the company was valued at £26 million, against more than £100 million. Shareholders, therefore, will not see any of their money back.

Mr Lewinsohn took his company into a wide range of unrelated sectors in search of stability. Until about 1984 it was focused primarily on finance, property and house-building and oil. Received wisdom from the company itself was that any substantial purchases elsewhere would upset the balance. But about this time Mr Lewinsohn changed his tune.

**● Institutions couldn't make head or tail of the company's strategy — nor did they trust the quality of its earnings ●**

The first move was to pay \$3 million, or £2.1 million, for 25 per cent of Inter, a Bermuda-based company set up in 1981 to create the world's first fully-automated financial futures exchange. It was the first of a number of diversifications that were to go horribly wrong.

In September, 1986, it paid \$27 million, or £18.2 million, for Transnational of the US, taking it into the risky area of computer leasing.

Summer of the next year was enlivened by a bid approach which came to nothing. Later that year it put up

for sale its 59 per cent of Southwest Resources, the mining group it floated in 1980, taking it out of that area altogether. At that time its biggest business was US oil and gas exploration and production.

It was around then that the company's public profile began to change. Never the stock for widows or orphans, Dominion was beginning to be seen as a little too exciting for its own good.

Mr Roy and Mr Don Richardson, the West Midlands property developers, and Lord Barnett, the former Labour Cabinet minister, entered the scene within a couple of months of each other, late in 1987, but it was the two-stage purchase early the next year of Film Finances which brought another pair of brothers to the group and led to the battles which resulted in Mr Lewinsohn's departure.

Mr Rupert Galliers-Pratt and Mr Nigel Caylor were well-known City figures, the latter having taken his mother's name. Mr Galliers-Pratt is chairman of Harvey & Thompson, the quoted pawnbroker, and Mr Caylor heads Allied Insurance Brokers.

Film Finances came to the group with its own problems. Its business was risky even by Dominion's standards, involving the provision of insurance against cost overruns.

It arrived with a heavy exposure to what was to become one of the decade's worst flops, the fantasy *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*. According to Mr Galliers-Pratt, the film had been over budget within a week of entering production in September, 1987.

The year 1988 saw warnings from Dominion over the effects of falling oil prices, a weak dollar and low savings of personal finance plans. Laing



Spanish connector, Dominica Beach, one of the company's holiday developments.

& Crickbank, its broker and financial adviser at the time, continued to be optimistic about the company, forecasting pre-tax profits of £10 million for the 1988-89 financial year. In the event, barely half that sum was achieved.

A ginger group put together by the two sets of brothers and other investors began to put pressure on Mr Lewinsohn towards the end of 1988. Mr Lewinsohn and Lord Barnett, then deputy chairman, swapped roles, and the peer was deputized to investigate the situation.

At the same time, Laing &

Cruckbank, was dismissed in favour of Williams de Broe. In an abrupt volte face, Mr Lewinsohn last July announced plans to sell most of Film Finances and move into the US mortgage market. The final shoot-out came at the annual meeting a month later, resulting in his departure just before a vote on his removal.

Mr Lewinsohn is adamant that the two deals he had planned would have put the company back on its feet, a view not shared by the present management, led by Mr Carl Openshaw, the chairman.

The shares were suspended

in September, amid talks of a refinancing by way of a rights issue. Mr Openshaw admitted defeat in January, and Price Waterhouse was appointed administrator. At the time of the suspension, it was clear that substantial write-downs would have to be made against the value of the group's assets as carried in the balance sheet at the March 31 1989 year-end.

The administrators' job now is to work out the value of those assets, arrange for their sale and ensure that the right amounts of money return to the right lenders.



Max Lewinsohn: high profile attracted small shareholders

## Twists and turns on a downhill road

**Later 1970s** — Max Lewinsohn takes control of Dundee Crematorium, name changed to Dundonian.  
**December 1979** — buys housebuilder Algrey Developments for £3.25 million.  
**May 1980** — plans to open three tin, tin and silver mines in Cornwall.  
**June 1980** — South West Consolidated Minerals floated off, 75 per cent retained.  
**August 1982** — change of name to Dominion and restructuring.  
**February 1983** — £8.2 million rights issue.  
**June 1984** — buys 25 per cent of Inter.  
**August 1984** — buys Anglo-International Investment Trust for £14 million, subsequently liquidated.  
**September 1986** — buys Transnational for £27 million.  
**July 1987** — bid approach "at close to 134p". Talks subsequently terminated.  
**October 1987** — puts up for sale its 59 per cent of Southwest Resources (the renamed South West Consolidated).  
**November 1987** — departure of four directors, all with long associations with Max Lewinsohn. Lord Barnett becomes deputy chairman.  
**January 1988** — The Richardsons acquire

5.6 per cent in post-crash dealings.  
**February 1988** — Dundee Crematorium sold for £1.4 million to Great Southern Group, breaking Dominion's long links with funeral services.  
**February 1988** — purchase of 24 per cent of Film Finances for £4.7 million as continuing switch from energy to financial services.

**April 1988** — purchase of rest of Film Finances, valuing entire group at £24.8 million and bringing on to Dominion board Rupert Galliers-Pratt and Nigel Caylor. Profits warning.

**August 1988** — reduces stake in Southwest Resources from 43 per cent to 31 per cent.  
**December 1988** — interim loss of £389,000 at Southwest.  
**December 1988** — Lewinsohn steps down as chairman in favour of Lord Barnett, becoming deputy chairman.  
**May 1989** — sale of Guardian Investment Holdings, Hong Kong-based property company, for £80 million to Southwest Resources. But flop of Southwest rights issue, underwritten by Dominion, pushes its stake back up to 45 per cent.

**July 1989** — plans to sell 80 per cent of Film Finances to its management for £25 million and buy York Associates, a New York mortgage company, for £29 million. Deal never completed. Pre-tax profits for full year £5.44 million, previous year's restated from £8.6 million to £4.87 million on adoption of "more conservative accounting policies."

**August 1989** — Lewinsohn quits as deputy chairman ahead of shareholder action at annual meeting. Sells more than half his stake, it is later revealed.

**August 1989** — Lewinsohn quits as chairman of Southwest.  
**September 1989** — shares in Dominion suspended at 52p, valuing company at £26.5 million.

**September 1989** — final dividend payment of 3p, already announced, halted after review showing financial position "substantially worse than thought."

**November 1989** — Lord Barnett and John Clarke, non-executive directors, quit the board.  
**January 1990** — Price Waterhouse called in as administrator. Assets shortfall estimated at £40 million.

## Finer points of group's assets profile

Dominion has two profitable and readily saleable assets, Transnational, the US computer peripherals leasing company, and the Film Finances business. Although the appearance of the latter on the 1988-89 balance sheet as a subsidiary held for sale at £25 million excited some surprise among City analysts, the company is the second biggest in its chosen field in the world.

The same cannot be said for some other parts of the group. Dominion has about 150 separate subsidiaries, but around 100 are based in Gibraltar and are merely used under Spanish law for the purchase of the company's flats on the Costa del Sol. Others are dormant. The chief assets outside Film Finance and Transnational are:

- A 7 per cent stake in USM-quoted Southwest Resources, worth just short of £1 million at its current price.
- Dominion Credit and Finance, a car leasing company where Bank of Boston is the main lender. Its borrowings of more than £30 million, secured against the loan portfolio, could eventually be satisfied by a sale. The administrators here are KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, put in by the bank, who are believed to be talking to several interested parties.
- Property in Texas which has already been the subject of write-offs of about £6.5 million.
- A stake of about 27 per cent in Inter, the financial futures exchange group, in the books at £6 million but unlikely to be

worth £1 million.  
● Berwin La Roche, a mortgage and pension broker which is thought to be close to disposal.  
● Dominion Financial Management, which provides computer and administrative services inside the group and to third parties. The company is profitable.  
● Dominion Investment Management, not in administration, which writes personal equity plans, has continued to trade profitably and retained its Fimbra membership, and is the subject of an attempted management buyout.  
● The financial services business, providing personal loans, part of Sarnia Mutual Supply, which also holds the Spanish development. The

loan book should have no difficulty finding a buyer.  
● The Spanish properties, Dominion Beach, where the first phase is complete and largely sold and the second started, and Dominion Heights, not yet started. Building has stopped on site and some contractors are owed money. Guernsey-based Sarnia is in liquidation. It is hoped the Spanish site can be sold as a going concern.  
The administrator, Price Waterhouse, is unable at this early stage to give any breakdown of the value of the assets. But sources close to the company have suggested they are unlikely to total much more than £60 million, leaving a £40 million shortfall against outstanding borrowings.

## Queen's Bench Divisional Court

## Law Report February 1 1989

## Court of Appeal

### Cautious approach by justices urged

**Regina v Chichester Justices, Ex parte Chichester District Council**

Before Lord Justice Neill and Mr Justice Roch

[Judgment January 30]

It was unwise for justices to stop committal proceedings for a reason which turned upon the correct interpretation of a section in legislation such as town and country planning legislation, unless it was abundantly clear that the interpretation advanced on behalf of the defendant was correct, and that advanced on behalf of the prosecution was wrong.

If the point was arguable then it was a better course for the justices to commit the defendant for trial and to leave such matters of statutory interpretation to be resolved by the crown court judge with the assistance of full argument from counsel.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court held in a reserved judgment when granting an application for judicial review to quash a decision of Chichester Justices, on November 30, 1988, not to commit Mr George Knight to the crown court for trial for allegedly failing to comply with enforcement notices issued by Chichester District Council concerning unauthorized development on land.

The Town and Country Planning Act 1971 provides by section 92(1)(b) that, after service of a copy of an enforcement notice, planning permission is granted for the retention on land of buildings... to which the enforcement notice relates, the enforcement notice shall cease to have effect in so far as it requires steps to be taken for the demolition or alteration of those buildings...

Mr Andrew Kelly for the council; Mr Clive Newton for the justices.

MR JUSTICE ROCH said that Mr Knight owned a farm and erected on there a two-storey brick building. On July 24, 1986 he was served with an enforcement notice requiring him to demolish the building to ground level. Mr Knight appealed against that notice to the secretary of state.

Prior to the appeal being heard, Mr Knight constructed a single-storey extension to that building. The council issued a second enforcement notice dated April 6, 1987 in respect of that extension, requiring demolition to ground level. Mr Knight appealed against that notice.

The appeals against both notices were heard together by an inspector appointed by the secretary of state and the result was that the inspector varied the enforcement notices to require in the case of the first notice, that the first floor should be demolished together with the external staircase and that a new flat roof should be provided.

With regard to the extension the requirements were that the external staircase should be removed and the building re-roofed. The variations were subject to submission of plans to the local planning authority and various other requirements.

Mr Knight did not comply with the enforcement notices as amended but submitted two planning applications to the local planning authority.

The first was for a single-storey feed store and conversion of external staircases to WC and offices and was entitled "Removal of first floor and conversion of external staircases". That planning application was granted by the council on February 16, 1988.

The second planning application was for the "Building" to be converted to a dwelling. That application was refused on March 7, 1988.

On February 3, 1988 Mr Knight had refused to confirm that the first planning application was to be taken as a submission of the schemes required by the inspector in the amended enforcement notices.

The justices dismissed Mr Knight on July 8, 1988 relying on the state of affairs on the land then. Mr Knight elected to go for them and at the end of the local planning authority's evidence the justices dismissed the proceedings.

definition of building included "any part of a building" (see section 290).

Second, Parliament did not provide, where planning permission was granted for the retention on land of buildings to which an enforcement notice related after the service of the enforcement notice, that that enforcement notice should cease to have effect altogether.

Thus Parliament had intended that parts of buildings and not merely entire buildings should be affected by enforcement notices and by section 92(1).

What then was the effect of section 92(1)? Enforcement notices issued to have effect in so far as they required steps to be taken for the demolition or alteration of those buildings. What was meant by the phrase "those buildings", to which buildings did the phrase refer?

In his Lordship's judgment "those buildings" had to refer to the building for the retention of which planning permission had been granted subsequent to the service of the enforcement notice.

The justices should have looked at the buildings for which planning permission was granted on February 16, 1988.

**Ramblers Association v Kent County Council**

Before Lord Justice Woolf and Mr Justice Pill

[Judgment January 29]

The requirements imposed on justices by section 116(6) of the Highways Act 1980 when they are considering whether they should stop up a highway were mandatory. Therefore, the justices had no power to dispense with those requirements.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment when allowing an appeal by way of case stated by the Ramblers Association against a decision of the Folkestone Justices on March 10, 1989 to stop up certain parts of a highway over land belong-

ing to the Ministry of Defence on the ground that they were unnecessary within the meaning of section 116 of the 1980 Act.

Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 provides: "(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, if it appears to a magistrates' court... that a highway... (a) is unnecessary... the court may by order authorize it to be stopped up or, as the case may be, to be diverted."

The building constructed by Mr Knight had to be altered and parts of it removed so that it became the building permitted by the planning consent which had been granted by the enforcement notice.

The building constructed by Mr Knight had to be altered and parts of it removed so that it became the building permitted by the planning consent which had been granted by the enforcement notice.

His Lordship would order the case to go back to the justices with a direction that they continue the hearing of the committal proceedings applying the interpretation of section 92(1) of the 1971 Act which he had stated.

Lord Justice Neill concurred.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard, Charles Hill & Co, Chichester.

**Barclays Bank plc v Miller and Another; Frank, third party**

Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Lord Justice Staughton

[Judgment January 18]

Although the court would not ordinarily accede to an application to dismiss an action for want of prosecution if the limitation period had not expired, where it was open to serious argument whether the claim would be time-barred, the court would dismiss the action, leaving the claimant to institute fresh proceedings if he chose to do so.

The Court of Appeal so stated dismissing an appeal by the defendants, Thomas and Pamela Miller, from Mr Justice McKinnon who had affirmed the decision of Master Topley striking out for want of prosecution third-party proceedings brought by the defendants against Mr Colin Frank in respect of a guarantee by which Mr Frank was allegedly obliged to indemnify them against any liability they might have to the plaintiff bank.

Mr Stuart Isaacs for the defendants; Mr Michael Malouf for the third party.

**LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON**, having referred to the history of the matter, said that it was apparent from Mr Justice McKinnon's judgment that there was no issue before him but that the defendants had been guilty of inordinate and inexcusable delay and that there had been prejudice to the third party.

Thus the sole issue before the judge was whether the claim in the third-party proceedings was time-barred.

If it were not, then in the ordinary way there would be no point in dismissing it for want of prosecution because fresh proceedings could be started promptly: see *Birkett v James* ([1978] AC 297).

The position would have been different if the claim were dismissed for want of prosecution on the basis of an abuse of the process of the court. In such a case it would be no means follow that a claimant could immediately start the proceedings again: see *The Supreme Court Practice* 1988 paragraph 25/1/7.

The dispute before the judge was whether the claim made by the defendants was solely a contractual claim or whether it also included a claim to contribution under the Civil

Liability (Contribution) Act 1978.

If it were a contractual claim, a legal executive then representing the defendants conceded that the cause of action had accrued in July 1981. The only alternative was that it was a claim under the 1978 Act, in which case the cause of action would have accrued in January 1988.

The judge rejected any claim under the 1978 Act in the third party notice, and held that there was only a contractual claim, which following the concession, was time-barred.

Mr Isaacs in the Court of Appeal, with leave, had withdrawn that concession. He had further submitted that there were four causes of action open to the defendants: namely, an implied indemnity by operation of law, an implied term of the agreement between the parties, the right of contribution in equity between co-guarantors, and a right to contribution under the 1978 Act.

All such causes of action were, in Mr Isaacs' submission, pleaded in the third-party notice.

If that were right the Court of Appeal would have to embark on a substantial inquiry into an application to dismiss for want of prosecution, not only as to what causes of action were available to the defendants, but also when the appropriate date for the accrual of the cause of action had been in each case, and whether each of those causes of action could be said to be comprehended in the third-party notice.

Referring to *Birkett v James*, his Lordship considered the speech of Lord Diplock (at pp320-321) where he had said that in the ordinary way there was no point in dismissing an action for want of prosecution if the limitation period had not expired.

The only result would be that the plaintiff could issue a fresh writ and far from hastening the final determination of the proceedings they would be yet further delayed because the plaintiff was starting anew.

Lord Diplock said that that

would be the ordinary result. He also expressly exempted cases where an action was dismissed for want of prosecution.

In his Lordship's view the House of Lords was not there considering a case where it was open to doubt and serious argument as to whether the cause of action was barred if a fresh writ were issued.

In such a case it might well be that the interests of justice were best served by dismissing the action for want of prosecution, leaving it to the plaintiff to choose, to start a fresh action.

The alternative was that master, judges on appeal, and even the Court of Appeal, might become embroiled on such an application in long and elaborate arguments as to whether the cause of action, if brought, would be time-barred.

There was much to be said for the view that masters should not have that task forced upon them when the problem might never arise, and if it did, could perhaps be more conveniently considered in another way.

With regard to the present action, there were undoubtedly issues which might give rise to difficulty. The question whether section 1 of the 1978 Act applied to a claim for contribution between co-guarantors was one on which the textbooks appeared to take different views.

The effect of section 7 of the Act might also give rise to difficulty. Those were quite apart from the question whether the cause of action was included in the third-party notice.

Accordingly, his Lordship considered that justice would be better served by dismissing the action for want of prosecution.

His Lordship proposed that the appeal be dismissed, making it plain that he expressed no view on the point which the judge had decided.

The Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Butler-Sloss agreed.

Solicitors: Emmsley Collins, Leeds; Pearman Grazier & Co, Leeds.

55 من الأصل

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will go up – and at the same time bet that it will go down – and, believe it or not, you can make a profit whether it goes up or goes down! (Lesson 8) ...

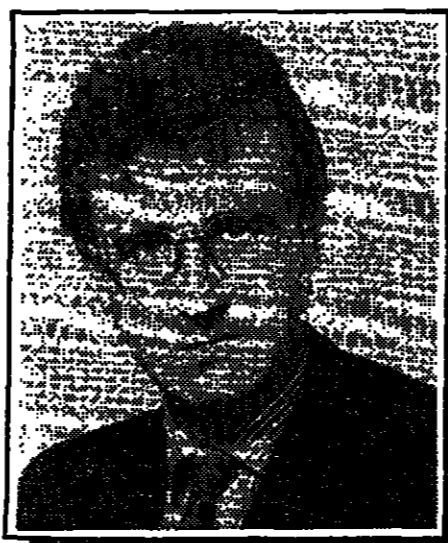
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 [Children]  
 [Religion]  
 [Political Party]  
 [Hobbies]  
 [References]  
 [Signature]  
 [Date]

**Exchange Index compared with 1985 was up at 89.0 (day's range 89.0-89.1).**

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES					OTHER STERLING RATES	
Market rates for January 31						
	Range	Close	1 month	3 months		
New Yrk	1,879.0-1,883.0	1,880.1-1,610.1	0.85-0.840	2.80-2.560	Argentina austral*	2,963.59-3,068.31
London	1,979.0-1,981.0	1,981.9-1,983.3	0.83-0.280	2.82-2.620	Australia dollar	2,182.4-2,186.7
Madrid	2,031.0-2,037.0	2,036.9-2,037.0	0.83-0.280	2.82-2.620	Bahrian dinar	2,032.0-0.8370
Brussels	56.58-56.49	56.14-56.34	1.10-1.10	4.48-4.410	Bangladesh taka	25.26-25.26
Copenhagen	10,940.0-10,964.4	10,938.3-10,978.7	29-29.4	71.8-71.8	Cyprus pound	0.7925-0.7925
Hong Kong	7.92-7.92	7.92-7.92	29-29.4	71.8-71.8	Finland markka	0.0020-0.0020
India	2,829.1-2,829.1	2,829.1-2,829.1	29-29.4	80-700	French franc	6.55-6.55
France	2,829.1-2,829.1	2,829.1-2,829.1	29-29.4	80-700	German DM	1.35-1.35
London	248.28-248.49	248.47-248.48	7-7.355	110-110.16	Hong Kong dollar	13,125.5-13,136.1
Madras	242.39-251.41	242.87-185.31	11-11.1	36-11.0	India rupee	25.35-26.58
Manila	210.0-210.0	210.0-210.1	13-13.1	44-44.0	Indonesia KD	0.0002-0.0002
Osaka	10,710.0-10,844.4	10,710.7-10,848.8	3-3.24	81.7-81.7	Malaysia ringgit	4,532.7-4,534.0
Paris	6,900.4-6,937.2	6,925.0-6,937.2	3-3.24	9-9.0	Mexico peso	45.94-46.20
Perth	10,710.0-10,844.4	10,710.7-10,848.8	3-3.24	81.7-81.7	Netherlands guilder	2,224.0-2,224.0
Porto	242.39-242.92	242.68-242.92	11-11.1	44-44.0	Saudi Arabia riyal	6,250.0-6,250.0
Singapore	2,829.1-2,829.1	2,829.1-2,829.1	29-29.4	80-700	Singapore dollar	1,335.0-1,335.0
Tokyo	242.39-242.92	242.68-242.92	11-11.1	44-44.0	S Africa rand (rand)	6,618.7-6,717.7
Vietnam	2,829.1-2,829.1	2,829.1-2,829.1	29-29.4	80-700	S Africa rand (rand)	6,618.7-6,717.7
Yokohama	2,829.1-2,829.1	2,829.1-2,829.1	29-29.4	80-700	U A E dirham	2,000.0-2,000.0
Yokohama	2,829.1-2,829.1	2,829.1-2,829.1	29-29.4	80-700		

\*Lloyds Bank. Rates supplied by  
 Citicorp and Barclays Bank Ltd.

[illegible][illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

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No.	Company	Group	Code or Issue
1	BP Petroleum (sa)	Oil/Gas	
2	Rolls-Royce	Property	
3	EE	Telecom	
4	Birmingham Midland	Industrial A-D	
5	Refineries T (sa)	Tobacco	
6	Midco	Industrial L-R	
7	Microgen	Electronics	
8	Cadbury-Schweppes (sa)	Food	
9	Siebel (sa)	Industrial S-Z	
10	Charter Com	Industrial A-D	
11	Medway (High)	Textiles	
12	Barrow Index	Newspaper/Pub	
13	Prop Security	Property	
14	BAT (sa)	Tobacco	
15	Macro 4	Electronics	
16	Hardy O & G	Oil/Gas	
17	STC (sa)	Electronics	
18	Carls Nichols	Property	
19	Burns (sa)	Oil/Gas	
20	Uthmaniyah (sa)	Oil/Gas	
21	Read Int (sa)	Newspaper/Pub	
22	THORN EMI (sa)	Electronics	
23	Avon Rubber	Industrial A-D	
24	Waddington (J)	Paper/Print/Adv	
25	Johnson Matthey	Industrial E-K	
26	Br Airways (sa)	Industrial A-D	
27	PU Foods	Food	
28	Mint	Electronics	
29	Good Pet	Oil/Gas	
30	St Telecom (sa)	Electronics	
31	First Leisure	Leisure	
32	Memor-SNA	Industrial L-R	
33	Leeds Live	Food	
34	Quintess Group	Leisure	
35	FKS	Paper/Print/Adv	
36	WPP	Paper/Print/Adv	
37	Memo O'Connell	Paper/Print/Adv	
38	Power Corp	Property	
39	Wesall	Industrial S-Z	
40	Monsieles	Property	
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42	Electro House	Electronics	
43	Transport Dev	Industrial S-Z	

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## BRITISH FUNDS

High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

### SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

### FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

### FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

### OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

### UNDATED

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

### INDEX-LINKED

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

### BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

Company	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	P/E
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

# Modest gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 29. Dealings end February 9. Contango day February 12. Settlement day February 19. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (sa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 24)

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### BREWERIES

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### BUILDING, ROADS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### FINANCE, LAND

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### FOODS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### DRAPERY, STORES

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### HOTELS, CATERERS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### INDUSTRIALS A-D

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### ELECTRICALS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### E-K

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### L-R

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### S-Z

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### INSURANCE

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### LEISURE

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### MINING

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### SHIPPING

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### SHOES, LEATHER

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### TEXTILES

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### TOBACCO

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### WATER

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### OVERSEAS TRADERS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### PROPERTY

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### OILS, GAS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### WATER

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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# Portfolio PLATINUM

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### OVERSEAS TRADERS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### PROPERTY

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### OILS, GAS

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### WATER

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### TOBACCO

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### SHOES, LEATHER

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### TEXTILES

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### SHIPPING

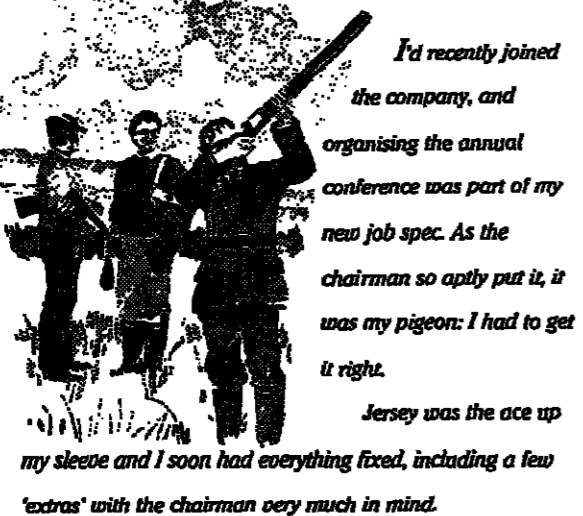
1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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### MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

1989/90	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...



Stage-eye view at the Queen Elizabeth II conference centre: "Meetings and lunch breaks are shorter. There is a tendency to spend less time in the main plenary session with everyone together. Instead, meetings tend to break up into small working groups"



**"It's your pigeon" said the chairman  
"Just get it right."**

One was a clay pigeon shoot and out on the range  
I thought a little encouragement might not go amiss. Just as  
he was about to call I had  
my chance: "Your pigeon  
chairman, I believe".

The right move at the  
right time? Too early yet to tell,  
but the conference went well  
and the chairman is set on a

Jersey holiday next year. So, it would seem, I did get it right.

Send for details to: Conference Director  
Jersey Conference Bureau, Waghborough, St. Helier, Jersey, J.L. Tel: 0534 78000.

# Jersey

A break, with convention

## Item 1: where do we meet?

**W**hen people plan a conference, their first demand is usually for "something different". The "concrete block" is being increasingly spurned for venues such as zoos, safari parks, museums and boats.

But venue-hunters do not have the choice that the statistics suggest. There are more than 3,000 conference venues in the UK, but when facilities are matched to requirements, the choice can narrow greatly. The demand for space can limit prospects even further.

"We have had to phone 90 venues to find conference space in London," says Heather Francis, of Conference Line, a venue-booker agency. "This also happens sometimes in the Midlands, particularly if there's something on at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) in Birmingham."

Paul Swan, of Spectrum Communications, a conference production company and consultancy, says: "Someone once told me there were 35,000 hotels in the UK, and that one could argue that they are all venues because they each have a place where at least two people can meet."

"Most conferences take place in

hotels. The main groups and hotel-marketing chains pursue the conference market with great vigour. And because location is always the number one factor, you will find that the really successful conference hotels are easily accessible. The Post House hotels, for example, are close to motorways and have good car parks.

"Probably a third of all UK conferences take place in the Midlands because that is easiest for most people to get to. After location, the demand is for facilities and then service."

After the hotels, business is shared between purpose-built conference centres, which attract the biggest events, universities, municipal halls such as assembly rooms, stately homes like Leeds Castle, and the more unusual venues.

Swan says national companies that are members of international groups have tended to hold separate conferences, but, possibly spurred on by thoughts of 1992, are joining forces with their European counterparts to run a big-budget event for a large number of people at a different location each year.

For companies without the overseas connection, "away" conferences are declining in popularity

**Wherever it is, the  
vital thing will be  
to make sure the  
event is effective**

as an increasing number of firms take a more hard-headed approach to the amount of time they are prepared to see staff "off the job", says David Hackett, of the Marketing Organization, a conference and incentive travel group.

Stephen Kaye, of the Conference Centre agency, has noted a trend over the past year or two to avoid London because it has become "extremely expensive". Many companies are moving up the M1 to Northampton, Leicester and Nottingham, and down the M4 towards Swindon, Bath and Bristol.

Swan says that conferences are getting shorter. "For example, for product launches it is now common for presentations and hospitality to be confined to half-days, with two different audiences on the same day." Audience participation is growing, in some cases supported by electronic-response systems in

which delegates are provided with key pads to indicate responses to questions from the platform and the response is instantly converted into computer graphic representations on video screens.

In the corporate sector, the trend towards more businesslike, harder-working and more participative events is confirmed by Chris Edwards, business manager of the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster. "Meetings and lunch breaks are shorter," he says. "There is an increasing tendency to spend less time in the main plenary session with everyone together. Instead, meetings tend to break up into small working groups."

**R**esearch conducted by the centre shows that most meetings now last a day or less. "What seems to be happening is that businesses are holding more but shorter meetings and trying to ensure they get the most out of them."

"Conferences are becoming more sophisticated. The lecturer with his overhead projector is passing into history, and even fairly modest internal company meetings are now

making use of professional production companies, with hi-tech audio-visual and video presentations and elaborate stage sets to sustain interest and punch home the message. Ninety-five per cent of meetings now make use of audio-visual support."

The increasing demand for quality is having a significant influence on developments in the conference industry, Swan says. "In the past, the bulk of our work was concerned with helping clients communicate with their sales force, dealers and distributors, but we are now more often communicating with other employees as well."

Hackett sees companies extending their range of conference and travel applications — and putting more effort into original and participatory leisure activities during the conference period.

The European challenge is acknowledged by Kaye. "As Europe becomes more accessible with the dawn of 1992 and the opening of the Channel Tunnel, the competition among venues will intensify," he says. "The future of UK venues looks uncertain unless they can ensure that their product is better than the best in Europe. Only in this way will they maintain their lead."

## NEC leads the way

Expansion heralds a strong future for British venues

**T**he turning point for the UK exhibition industry was the opening of the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham in 1976.

The centre doubled Britain's exhibition capacity and, for the first time, gave it a venue with facilities equal to those of its Continental competitors.

Nevertheless, the NEC is

smaller than its principal West German, Italian and French competitors.

Despite initial scepticism about its location, the centre, established with £40 million from the City of Birmingham, successfully challenged London for a share of the top sector of the exhibitions market, undoubtedly aided by its road, rail and air links with the

rest of Britain and overseas.

In its first year, the centre hosted 32 exhibitions; last year it was home to more than 100. It now attracts the main industrial fairs and about four million visitors each year.

A new halls complex was opened last year and the NEC's 125,000 sq yd capacity is planned to increase to 200,000 by the end of the decade.

Complementing the NEC is a major development in the conference sector. Britain's first purpose-built convention facility — the International Convention Centre — is scheduled to open in Broad Street, Birmingham, in April next year.

In west London, Earls Court — which holds the number two spot among UK exhibition venues — is undergoing a big expansion with the development of Earls Court 2. Its associated Olympia facility has also increased its capacity in recent years.

Earls Court and Olympia comprise the largest privately-owned exhibition centre in the UK.

By early next year, Earls Court 2 would add a further 17,000 sq yds of prime exhibition space to the centre's existing 42,000 sq yds, said Rush Dray, Earls Court Hall director.

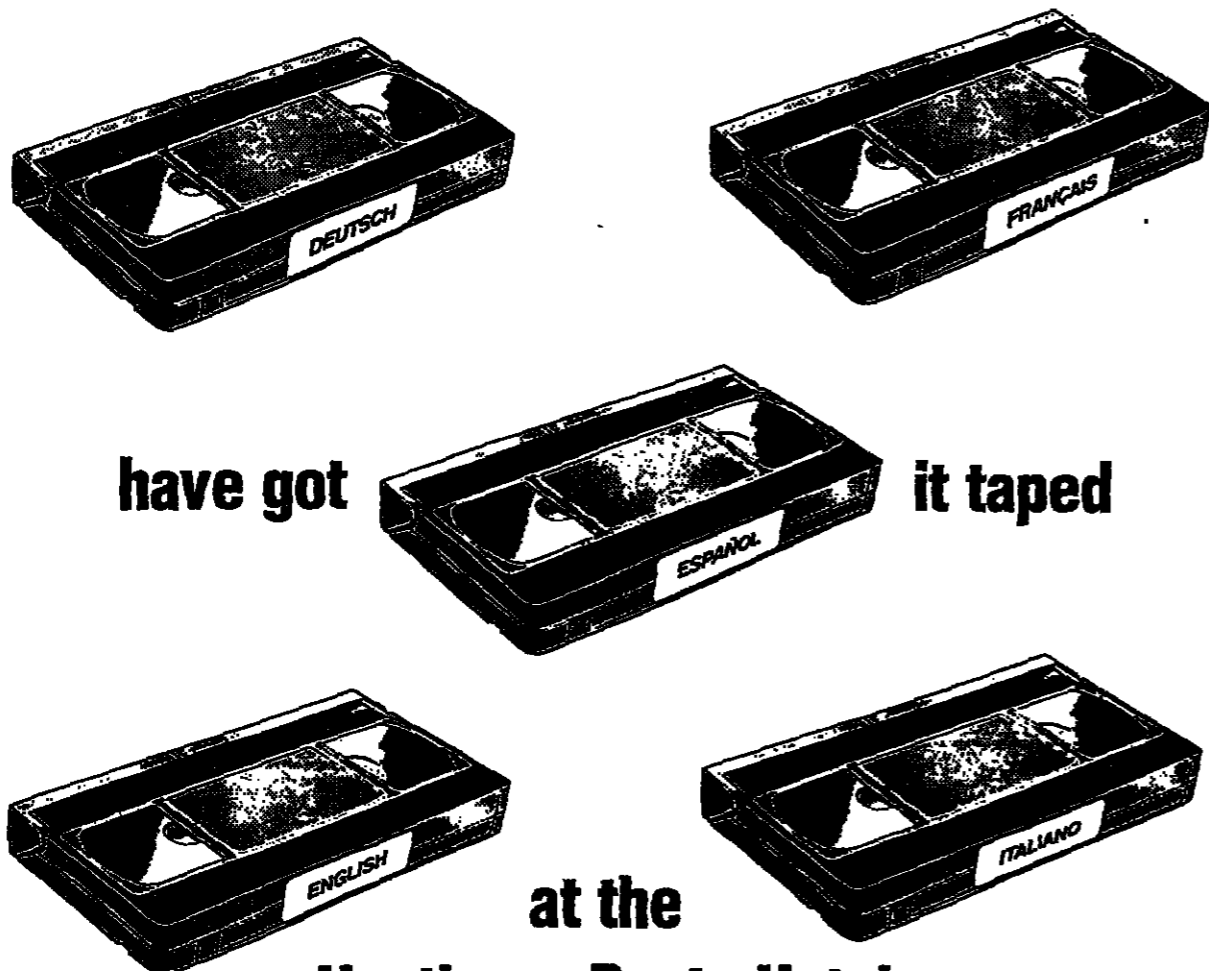
Despite the dominant position of the three major venues, there has been a significant growth of regional exhibition centres, particularly with the renovation of G-Mex in Manchester and the opening of the new purpose-built Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in Glasgow.



Philip Steel, of Couran Design, studies drawings of the International Convention Centre

## Five good reasons why international businessmen

have got it taped



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ANDREW BOURNE

How the delegates see it: audience participation is growing, in some cases with electronic-response systems in which key pads are used to indicate responses to questions from the platform

# More tell and sell

**J**eremy Sale is emphatic. "People have always spoken about conferences and exhibitions, but we like to put it the other way round: exhibitions and conferences." The director of the Exhibition Industry Federation is underlining the importance of the £1 billion British exhibitions industry.

"There is now, of course, a close relationship between the two. Few exhibitions will not have some form of conference alongside and, vice versa, conferences and seminars will develop an exhibition element."

Sale's organization provides the collective voice for the British exhibitions industry. "In Britain, exhibitions are made up of three different strands - organizers, contractors and venue owners - whereas in West Germany, for example, it is all one."

Sale does not see Britain taking on the European exhibition giants after 1992. "With our venue capacity and the size of exhibition halls we have, we'll continue to run highly specialized shows," he says.

"We have, however, set up initiatives with Brussels and are taking a lead in trying to get a common 'denomination' in Europe, whereby if you exhibit in, say, London or Munich, the definitions, nomenclature and standards are all of one ilk."

One of the federation's main aims has been to prove the effectiveness of exhibitions as a marketing medium. "We don't really know yet

## As the industry grows, conferences and exhibitions move closer in concept

about the effect of exhibitions on purchasing decisions," Sale says. "Proper research and audited figures were needed, and, for the first time, we have them. Soon, we will begin putting our findings into shape. Our research will demonstrate the benefits."

In the past two years, the industry has been buoyant and has expanded at a great rate. "We are optimistic about expansion prospects in the industry for the next five years," Sale says.

The federation's preliminary research work into the British exhibitions industry has shown that in 1988, 9.5 million visitors passed through the turnstiles of 651 exhibitions in 46 venues with a minimum capacity of 2,390 sq yds. They generated a total expenditure of nearly £1 billion. In 1984, there had been 467 exhibitions at 26 venues.

Further expansion, however, is

limited by the number and size of venues and the dominant position of London and Birmingham. According to Sale, the NEC is the country's "prize venue" for size and modern facilities, but London is still seen as the magnet for exhibitions.

"The business is fairly seasonal - you have troughs and peaks," Sale says. "Everyone wants to exhibit at the same times of the year. There is, however, plenty of scope. We want to make medium-size exhibitions more international, thus turning them into bigger ones, and the specialized ones into more specialized ones."

The picture is one of development of tried and tested venues rather than the building of new ones, for which the costs would be prohibitive. Sale says: "Wembley is extending, the Arena in London's Docklands has come on stream and Brighton is thinking of expanding."

**A**berdeen last year found itself host to 2,000 Quakers for its university's biggest - and quietest - summer conference. Paul Boness, Aberdeen University's conference marketing officer, says: "This year promises to be noisier; one booking includes more than 700 Canadian pipers and drummers."

Britain has three main groups of suppliers of conference facilities: hotels, purpose-built centres such as London's Queen Elizabeth II Centre - and universities.

"Our story is one of growth and development," says Carole Forman, secretary of the British Universities Accommodation Consortium (Bunac), the universities' 19-year-old collective marketing organization. The universities score over their hotel rivals in three

## Campus lessons

ways. They have large, well-equipped, purpose-built lecture halls; they occupy larger sites, often in parkland settings, with recreational and proper study facilities, and they are cheaper.

The Bunac "24-hour tariff" for lunch, tea, coffee, meeting room, dinner, bed and breakfast ranges from £22 a person at Queen Mary College, London, to £50.28 at Churchill College, Cambridge. A three-star hotel would charge between £80 and £90 for the same package. Delegates can meet, eat and sleep at the same

building or on the same site. However, conference centres and hotels are available all year round, which is a facility that so far only 20 of Bunac's 54 members can provide.

Aberdeen is the most northerly university in Britain, but this has not been a disadvantage. "It is balanced by the one attraction the others do not have: we're on the doorstep of the Highlands," Boness says.

Meeting the challenge for public spending cuts has been the main factor behind the universities' becoming a force in the conference business. The market leader, Warwick University, last year earned £3.6 million from conferences - 5.1 per cent of its income.

© Bunac, Box 600, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD (0602 504571).



Penny Hanson: it's show time

## Confex 90 is the show for everyone

**M**ore than 4,000 visitors have registered already for International Confex 90, which will open at Olympia next Tuesday for three days.

The event will be the largest meetings, incentive travel, exhibitions and conferences show to date, with 325 stands representing 812 exhibitors. Last year Confex, now in its seventh year, attracted 5,267 visitors; this year, its organizer, Blenheim Queensdale, expects about 8,000. Of those attending the 1989 show, 31 per cent controlled budgets of more than £50,000 and 19 per cent were authorized to spend more than £20,000.

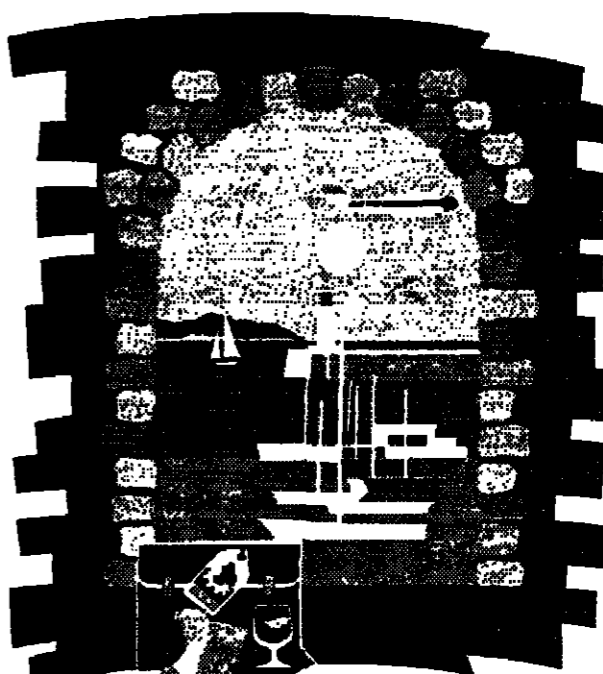
Penny Hanson, joint managing director of Blenheim Queensdale, says: "International Confex 90 will have something for every buyer, from executives or

ganizing international meetings of thousands of people to organizers of small conferences; from the manager organizing travel incentives to the exhibition stand manager responsible for his trade show stand."

Forty countries will be represented, promoting incentive travel packages, meeting and conference facilities, and 60 stands will be operated by big hotel chains.

Timed to coincide with International Confex 90 is the second International Symposium on Conference Safety, at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster, next Monday and Tuesday.

The symposium is being held under the auspices of the Association Internationale des Palais de Congress. Leading authorities will deal with conference security, fire hazards, safety and food.



## Conference GUERNSEY

and you'll have made the right decision from the start. A venue that's distinctive, away from it all, yet so easy to reach. Hotels with excellent meeting facilities, memorable restaurants, and a delightful island with a wealth to explore and do when time allows. VAT free benefits for all to enjoy. And costs - including flights - which you'll find hard to beat. All in favour? Contact: Michael Paul, Dept 17, Guernsey Tourist Board, P.O. Box 23, Guernsey, Channel Islands. Tel: 0481 28611. Fax: 0481 21246.

*"Carried unanimously!"*

## THIS TIME TOMORROW, YOU COULD KNOW THE VENUE FOR YOUR NEXT CONFERENCE.

Call First Place, Best Western's conference venue finding service, and within 24 hours we'll send you a short list of venues tailored to your budget and requirements free of charge.

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**BEST WESTERN HOTELS**

STANDARDS AND STANDARDIZATION

## The walls move. The seats move. The doors move. (Once, we even felt the earth move.)

That was the day we had the performing elephants in. But it's briefcases, not trunks, that most of our visitors pack.

They arrive here (by car, train, helicopter and even by the boatload) on business because their companies realise the SECC is exactly what we intended it to be even before the first brick was laid:

Arguably the most flexible, technically advanced exhibition and conference centre in Europe.

(The readers of Conference and Exhibitions International do not entirely agree: they voted the SECC Best Exhibition Centre in the World.)

Well, is it?

The 5 million or so visitors we've welcomed to date, seem to think so. In fact, for a new venue, our occupancy levels are a lot higher than the industry average.

The big attraction is flexibility. We said the walls move, the seats move and the doors move. We weren't joking.

Our architects planned it that way. Their brief was to design that rarest of rare venues; one that will allow you to hold a conference in conjunction with a related exhibition, or host concerts or spectator events.

At the risk of benumbing your brain with facts and figures you can equally well read in our glossy brochure, here are a few examples of what we mean:

Our principal conference auditorium (the imaginatively named "Hall 1") with its

state-of-the-art sound and lighting system and audio-visual control room, can hold 2000 delegates - spellbound.

(Incidentally, the Centre as a whole has been known to hold 10,000 delegates.)

But if there's only 200 of you, does that mean rows of empty seats? No, it means no empty seats. Because everything in Hall 1 (as in all five of our halls) is, as our technocrats put it, "removable, retractable and demountable".

And to mount an exhibition you don't have to mount an expedition round Britain to find enough space.

Take our Hall 4, with 10,065m<sup>2</sup>. Or our Hall 5 with 4,105m<sup>2</sup>. Still not satisfied? Then take both. We'll simply slide away the wall that divides them.

What? You want more? Take all five interlinked halls and have an incredible 19,000m<sup>2</sup> all to yourself.

Can you stand a few more statistics? Like 19 breakout/conference rooms.

18 organisers offices. 7 car parks. 5 bars. 2 restaurants. (That's enough statistics. Ed.)

After the event, we're equally accommodating.

The glittering new Forum Hotel has 270 four-star bedrooms and 15 suites. And for those who play as hard as they work, a leisure complex with swimming pool, jacuzzi, gymnasium and sauna.

(The Forum Hotel is one minute's walk away. Within one hour's drive are another 7,000 hotel rooms.)

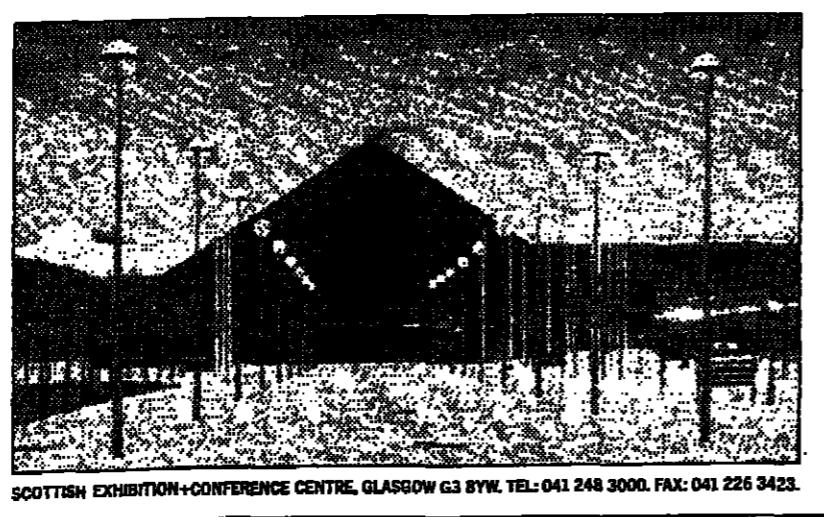
Finally, access. Beat this: 12 minutes away is Glasgow Airport with 25 daily flights to London. We've our own railway station, helipad and quayside with direct access to the sea. And believe it or not, there's only one set of traffic lights between the SECC and London!

Why have we gone to such lengths (550 words so far) to tell you the SECC?

Simply because we don't just want you to come once, we want you to keep coming.

And we know that conference, exhibition, concert and events organisers have one thing in common.

Like elephants, they have very long memories.



SCOTTISH EXHIBITION+CONFERENCE CENTRE, GLASGOW G3 8YH. TEL: 041 248 3000. FAX: 041 226 3423.

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There'll also be an amazing array of on-site facilities. Like the Symphony Hall, a Festival Marketplace, Britain's biggest indoor sports arena, a wide choice of restaurants and its own Hyatt Regency hotel. All in the centre of Birmingham, the city which lies at the heart of Britain's travel network.

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Send to: ICC House, 10a The Wharf, Bridge Street, Birmingham B1 2JS. Telephone: 021-200 2000. Fax: 021-643 0355. 021-643 0388. I would like to know more about Europe's most advanced convention centre.

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LOOK INTO OUR STAND AT CONFEX 90 Stand number 124, Olympia 2, 6-8 February

01-481 4481

## LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

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This European Finance company requires a first class secretary to work for the head of its Operations Department. The ideal candidate will have recent experience in an accounting firm with an interest in accounts work as the position also involves working for various members of the Accounts Department. Strong administrative capabilities with a mature and flexible outlook will enable you to work very much on your own initiative. You will have a sound educational background with typing and shorthand speeds of 60/100 wpm respectively. An ability to work with computers would be an advantage, although not essential. You may on occasion be required to work before or beyond normal working hours. Above all you must bring with you a good sense of humour which will be an absolute asset to work in this department.

This company offers excellent benefits and training will be given where necessary in the use of our Office Automation System. COMPANY OPERATES A NO SMOKING POLICY.

Please respond in the first instance to:  
Ms Clare Ward, Select Appointments plc, 28 South Moulton Street, LONDON W1. Telephone: 01-491 8133.

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Our client is a new and already major force in the UK leisure industry. Their phenomenal success is a result of the dynamic and progressive environment created by the drive, flair and ambition of their team. They look for independent thinkers who can act on their own initiative, take early responsibility and really get to know their business. Their Corporate Membership division seeks an assertive, gregarious personality whose organisational, prioritising and decision making abilities are equalled by excellent secretarial and administrative skills. Your experience has been gained in a City environment where working at senior level is second nature. This is not an ordinary 9-5 role; the responsibilities are wide-ranging, demanding and extremely rewarding. If you can rise to the challenge telephone 01-493 5787 to know more.

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You will need a creative mind, initiative and enthusiasm coupled with the ability to take your own initiative in a crisis. If you have 15 months to 2 years experience in the PR or advertising world you will find this an excellent opportunity to get involved in writing press releases and client management.

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ANGELA MORTIMER

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require a  
SECRETARY/PA

based at Hounslow

This position will provide secretarial and administrative support to the Financial Controller and his small team of analysts. The Controller and his team oversee the European budgets, spending, headcount and a variety of financial reporting - making this a busy but diverse area to work in.

Candidates should have excellent communication skills to enable them to work well at all levels, including senior management. The position also requires an efficient and methodical secretary, with accurate typing and P.C. skills - preferably with a knowledge of Paradox, Wordstar, Word5 and/or Lotus 1-2-3 software packages.

Benefits include BUPA, pension, luncheon vouchers and excellent travel benefits. Salary circa £12,000 per annum.

Please send C.V. with covering letter stating daytime contact number and current salary.

Ruth Bishop  
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London SW1E 5BJ

## ASSISTANT TO SENIOR PARTNER'S SECRETARY

Required by large firm of Architects in W.1. Good shorthand and accurate typing speeds as well as knowledge of word processing is essential.

The work consists of typing general correspondence, speeches and invitations to luncheons and receptions, together with faxing, filing and occasional reception duties.

This position is most suitable for an experienced, meticulous and mature person returning to work after break. Must be discreet and willing to help in all aspects of the Senior Partner's work.

This is a permanent position with salary by negotiation. A 4-day week (Tuesday-Friday) would be considered.

Please write to:  
Mrs Ann Hart  
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## HIGH FLYER

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Airline Industry seek executive P.A. Secretary with shorthand and admin skills. Knowledge of Dutch an advantage. Car driver essential, based at Heathrow. This is a position for the career minded only.

Call Dawn Shorter on 01-493 8346  
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Young firm of Architects are seeking enthusiastic Secretary/ Receptionist.

Good telephone manner and organisational ability. Typing 50 wpm & W.P. experience. Plenty of scope for increased responsibility. Age 16 years +.

Contact: C. Corringham  
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Aged 23 plus

Salary: £12,500 to 14,000

A Secretary is required to work on the NewsDesk of the Sunday Times. Experience in a similar environment would be an asset.

Applicants should have a mature outlook, possess good secretarial skills (100/60), and have the ability to work under pressure, whilst maintaining an excellent telephone manner.

An excellent benefits package is offered, which includes six weeks holiday and BUPA.

Applicants should apply in writing only, enclosing a CV together with daytime telephone number, to:

Mrs B Hemmings  
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News International Newspapers Limited  
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Please call  
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The Chairman and Buyer of this prestigious Fine Wine Merchants requires a personal assistant.

Applicants should possess top secretarial skills (S/H and W.P.), fluent French, excellent presentation and communication skills.

A knowledge or interest in wine is considered desirable though not essential.

Salary is negotiable a.e.

Please apply in writing enclosing letter and full C.V. to:

Mr Graham Chidgey, Laytons Wine Merchants Ltd, 20, Midland Road, London NW1 2AD.

## Circa £20,000 Neg.

## Experienced

## Office Manager

Excellent Secretarial & W.P. Skills  
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## £15,000 PA

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Three (well trained) directors require an office manager to assist in their every day tasks. Small friendly office in the heart of Mayfair. Varied and interesting workload. Wordperfect wordprocessing added advantage. Fax your CV today for prompt response.

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Jenni Rainey  
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EXPERIENCED ALL ROUND SECRETARY/PA NEEDED FOR RESPONSIBLE POSITION IN A SMALL TEAM OF AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION.

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Mayfair £14,500 + bonus + superb benefits

Highly successful Property Company need a first class Sec/PA

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Telephone: Mr Roberts on 01-637-0145.

Roberta Neill  
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The Chairman of this renowned City Company is seeking a professional individual to act as his Personal Assistant. You must have strength of character, the ability to deal with highly confidential matters, both business and personal, and a minimum of 10 years experience. Excellent benefits and very good salary. For further details call CLARE BROWN 01 488 4746

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£13,000-16,000 + BENEFITS

We are exclusively handling the immediate recruitment of 2 senior shorthand secretaries for an expanding Tobacco Dock. Both positions require first-class skills - although rusty shorthand will suffice - excellent presentation, the ability to prioritise the workload when necessary and the organisational flair to plan and organise some very hectic schedules for one director and his two associates. In addition to a worthwhile career move you will be working in a delightful area that offers wine bars, restaurants, great shops all within a very comfortable working environment.

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CONTACT: KIM FIELD  
New St. Agency, 1a New Street, London EC2

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George Philip of Reed International require a Sales Office Manager to work in their West End publishing office. Duties include liaison with UK sales force and designated trade customers. Top salary, available to right applicant together with a comprehensive benefits package associated with a large international group.

Please apply by phone or in writing to David Rivers, UK Sales and Marketing Director, George Philip Ltd, 59 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DA.

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Experienced PA/ team secretary for Director and his small specialist team of architects in Covent Garden working on prestigious major London projects. Super location, happy office, frequent contact with principles in New York.

Salary £13,000.

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Small private company requires highly motivated secretary with good communication and secretarial skills to work in their well-appointed offices.

Knowledge of WordPerfect preferable, but can train. Call 352 2045 today for more information.

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Institute involved in European issues. Secretariat based in London W5, organising conferences, producing publications, undertaking research and advising senior executives is looking for an additional member for small, happy team. Applicants should be enthusiastic secretaries with good administrative and numerous skills. Knowledge of French an asset.

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requires Secretary/P.A. with sh/hand to organise his office and daily schedule. Essential qualities are good speeds, W.P. and P.C. experience and the ability to thrive under pressure. A good command of spoken and written French would be a distinct advantage. Eurolanguage is the UK member of a group of French Companies involved in the provision of language courses for students of many nationalities. Salary in the region of £12,000.

Applicants with full CV to Jessica Corbyn, Eurolanguage Ltd., Greyhound House, 23/24 George Street, Richmond Surrey TW9 1HY.

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You can type 60 wpm and take shorthand at 80 wpm but want more out of life?

Young advertising agency in South Ken seeks a budding PA. You must be cheerful. Not scared to use your brain.

Willing to deal with clients and want to get involved in all aspects of our work in TV, magazine and newspaper advertising.

Age not as important as a good outward-going personality.

Small company, but great prospects working with the MD and Creative Director.

CALL VICTORIA BARLETT ON 01-351 3911.

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A highly successful Commodity Brokers based in London Bridge has just promoted its former PA, and is now looking for an energetic and experienced individual to take on this key role.

As PA to a Managing Director you will not only be organising their work with sound administrative support but you will also be helping them to develop their business.

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Age 22-35

City Office  
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With S/H and W.P. experience for head office in Bromley of a food group. Salary neg. Please telephone J.R. Owen on 240 1110 to arrange an interview.

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Requires Secretary. PA to work closely with MP. Kensington home. Must deal with constituents correspondence and laws, but some literary work as well.

Reply to ROY KJ3

## Secretary/PA

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International Advertising Communications Group. Self-starter, reliable, W.P. experience. Languages helpful. 22+ or could suit much older person. Please phone 01-240 3561

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● TECHNOLOGY: TV GOES FLAT  
● SCIENCE: INVENTIVE MINDS

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 1 1990

# World bid to catch the gravity wave

A £30 million project to prove Einstein's theory of space-time is being led by Scottish scientists. Pearce Wright says their new observatory could unlock the secrets of the universe

British scientists are about to take centre stage in a unique international effort to prove the existence of gravity waves: the so-called ripples in space-time predicted by Einstein but which have yet to be convincingly detected.

The researchers have embarked on a multi-million pound enterprise which could provide answers to some of the most baffling questions in astronomy about the age of the universe and how the first galaxies and stars were formed after the Big Bang of creation. Several observatories, linked at points around the world, are needed for the experiments.

Indeed, the new trans-global project could resolve growing confusion. The flood of discoveries by powerful ground-based optical and radar telescopes and spacecraft are introducing more perplexing queries rather than answers to questions.

The invention that should resolve some of the conundrums is a revolutionary type of laboratory in which scientists hope, for the first time, to detect the gravity waves that, according to Einstein's theory, sweep silently and unseen across space from exploding stars, black holes, pulsars and the convulsions of other celestial bodies.

But only a handful of scientists worldwide are working in this field. Scotland provides one of the prime sites, at Tents Muir Forest, north of St Andrews in Fife, for the novel type of observatory planned for detecting gravity waves. It will use a new type of instrument — a laser detector — being pioneered by groups at Glasgow University, the Max-Planck Institute at Garching in West Germany, and the California Institute of Technology, Caltech. All have built prototypes.

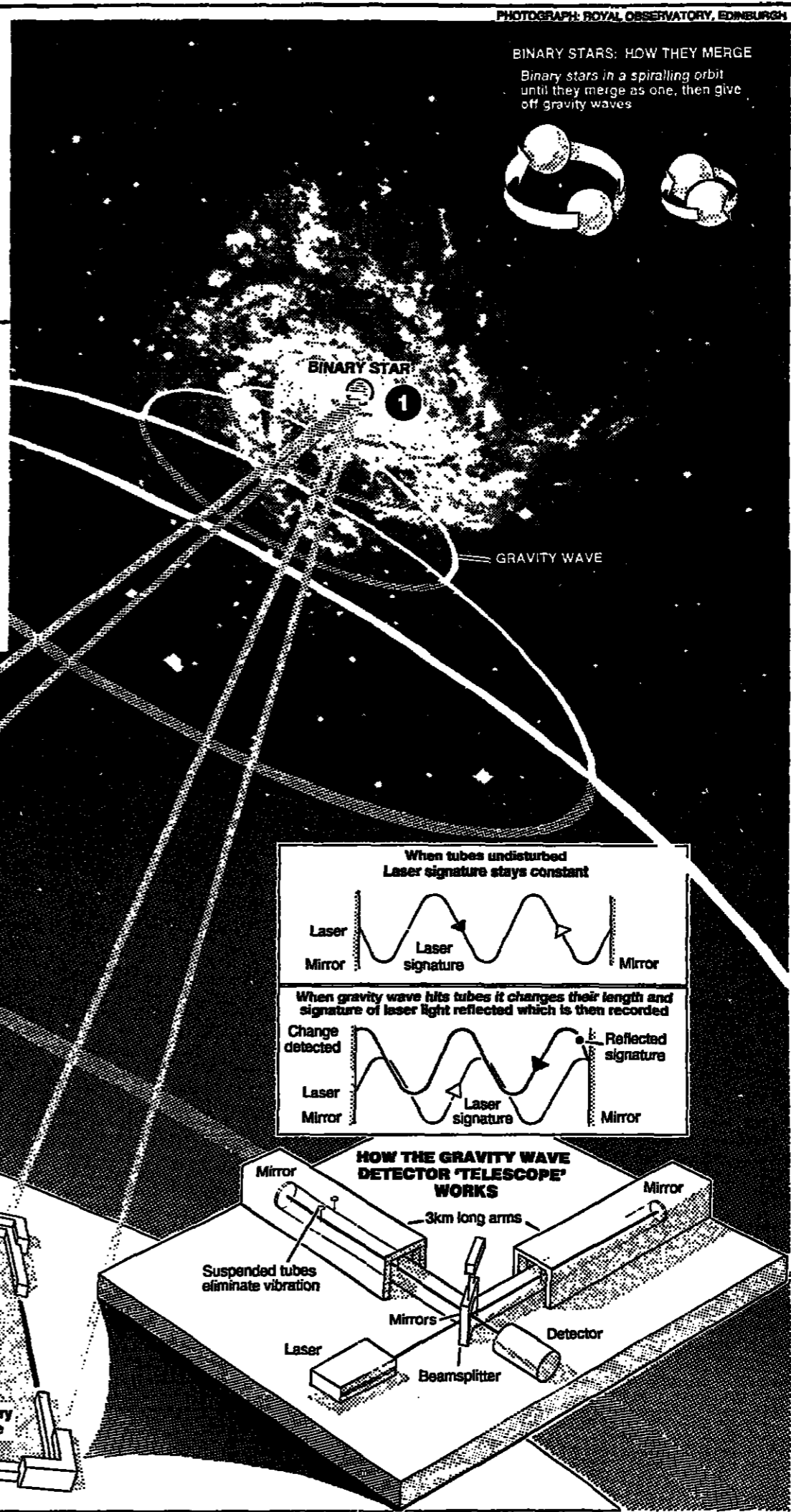
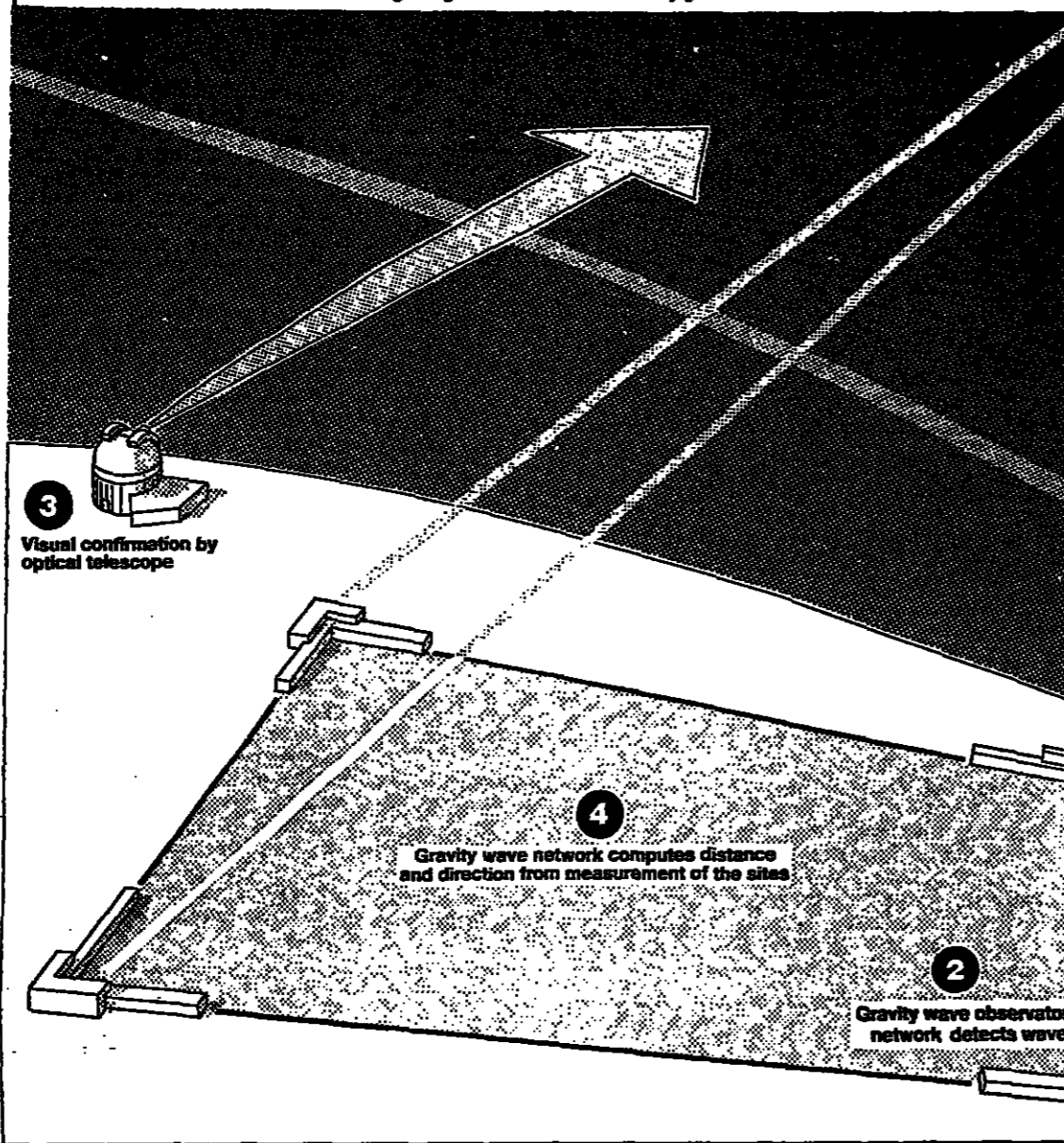
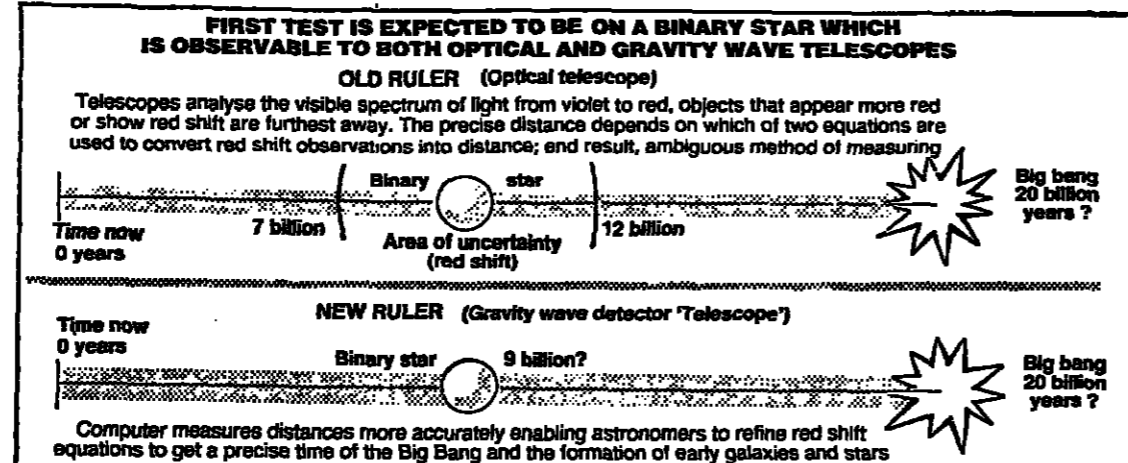
Professor James Hough, director of the Glasgow team, believes the gravity wave instruments will give astronomers a new window on to the universe.

The detection of gravity waves will give new types of information, qualitatively different from those produced by any other observation," he says.

Among the fundamental disputes that could be settled is the argument over the established methods astronomers use to measure distances and occurrences in galaxies far beyond ours. Modern cosmology uses a measurement of red-shift, which is now found to be influenced by other factors, and therefore less accurate.

Instead, the linked gravity wave observatories should provide the nearest thing to an exact cosmic tape measure, or ruler, for the direct measurement of distance across space.

But the primary experiment is to provide the definitive test of



Einstein's view of the universe, as he described it in his General Theory of Relativity that refined Newton's theory of gravity by adding time to the other dimensions of space.

The new gravity wave detectors, each costing about £30 million to build, will depend on shining laser beams along two tubes, each three kilometres long. The one proposed as a joint Glasgow University/Max Planck project could be excavated either in the Scottish countryside, near St Andrews, or at a site in Bavaria.

Despite the prediction by Einstein of the existence of gravity waves, the first attempt at detection was made only 25 years ago.

The first builder of gravity wave detectors was Dr Joseph Weber, at the University of Maryland, in the United States. His major device was a 1.5 ton cylinder of aluminium, hanging from vibration-proof mountings in a vacuum chamber. It was meant to be so sensitive that, if a gravity wave passed across it, the stress produced could be picked up electronically by the most delicate strain gauges.

There were some sensational

moments that turned out to be false alarms, but no conclusive evidence of gravity waves.

More sensitive, metal solid detectors were built 20 years ago, in Glasgow, based on pioneering work by Professor Ronald Drever. Again, they failed to find the elusive gravity waves.

Drever now heads a gravity wave team involving Caltech, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University, California, which has plans for two observatories: one each on the east and west coasts of America.

Proposals have also been prepared for Italian-French and Australian-Japanese gravity wave observatories. A gravity wave "telescope" needs a site free from any seismic activity.

Professor John Sandeman, from the Australian National University (ANU), and David Blair, from the University of Western Australia (UWA), have found an ideal place at a sandy area on Wallingup Plain, near Gingin 45 miles north of Perth.

Hough says: "Ideally, a network of at least four observatories, several thousand miles apart but linked by atomic clocks, is needed to make an accurate location of the source of gravity waves."

Continued on page 37

## Nasa's space shock

A leading partner of America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) has voiced concern over plans to economize on the Freedom international space station project (Pearce Wright writes).

Disquiet was expressed by Professor Reimar Lüst, director-general of the European Space Agency (ESA), in an address to the US House of Representatives committee on science, space and technology. He hoped that Nasa would honour the original agreement on co-operation, signed — at President Reagan's invitation — with the European agency in 1984, and reinstate the developments on which the agency is spending \$5 billion (£3 billion) as part of the

Europe is worried about cuts to the Freedom project

multi-billion Freedom space station that was to be launched in 1995.

ESA's contribution to the venture is covered by a package of projects called the Columbus development programme. It includes a manned laboratory to be attached permanently to Freedom; a spacecraft called a man-tended free-flyer (MTFF) that would carry experiments back and forth from the manned laboratory into

space; and the polar platform, a second spacecraft for remote sensing, which was to have had its equipment renewed every three or four years from the space station.

ESA scientists are having to consider other options, including scrapping a manned laboratory module because of cuts in spending on the space station.

The proposed redesign of Freedom would reduce the electrical power and other services available for the European projects, making a manned module impractical. The redesign has also angered Canada and Japan, which planned to share in a manned module.

Nasa still hopes to build the station and have it fully crewed by American astronauts within six months of its 1995 target date. But it has to achieve that while saving 20 per cent of the money first proposed for the project.

The changes not only rob the laboratories of electrical power, they also threaten European and Japanese plans for a free-flying laboratory because there would be no provisions for looking after it.

Nasa did not consult its international partners, which together will spend \$8 billion on the space station. But the Americans still expect those contributions.

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# Slimming the screen

Scientists are taking longer than expected to develop a television thin enough to hang on a wall. But will it catch on? George Cole reports

For years, the electronics industry has been promising television sets which are so thin they will hang on the wall like a picture. Yet, despite all the advances in television technology, large flat television screens barely exist outside the laboratory or science fiction novel.

Television sets and computer monitors are bulky because they use a cathode ray tube (CRT). Developed more than 80 years ago, it works by firing a beam of electrons on to a phosphor-coated screen to produce tiny points of light called pixels.

Television pictures are made up of about half a million pixels and the greater the number of pixels, the sharper the image. CRTs give high picture quality and are cheap to make, but they are large, heavy and use lots of power.

Both the electronics and computer industries want to replace the CRT with flat-screen technology — although for different reasons. The electronics camp wants to develop compact video equipment with crystal-clear pictures; computer companies want portables with high-quality text and graphics.

Finding a replacement for the CRT has not been easy. But Dr Alan Knapp, leader of information display at Philips laboratories, says: "Making a flat-screen display is relatively simple; making it cheap enough to compete with the CRT is another story."

Front runners in the race for the flat-screen display are gas-plasma, electroluminescent, liquid crystal display (LCD) and the flat CRT.

Gas-plasma and electroluminescent displays work by passing a voltage through gases or chemicals which causes them to glow orange-red. Gas-plasma displays are thin — about half an inch thick — and some displays are more than 3ft across and comprise more than four million pixels.

But both systems are expensive

and cannot produce a full-colour display. As a result, they have so far been restricted to military and avionics use.

LCDs are much more promising. These are made by sandwiching a thin layer of liquid crystals between two electrodes. When a voltage is passed through them they twist upright, altering the amount of light passing through. For television displays, the liquid crystals are arranged as a matrix of cells which represent pixels.

LCDs have the advantages of being small, light and using little power. The first LCDs were used in watches, calculators and pocket-sized televisions.

But these early sets gave coarse pictures because their screens were only 2in wide and comprised just 20,000 pixels.

Modern LCD televisions have 5in or 6in screens with almost 10 times as many pixels and use filters for full colour pictures. Sony, Hitachi and Panasonic market portable VCRs with 5in LCD screens.

Building larger LCDs is difficult because as the screen size increases, the picture becomes poorer. Scientists are developing "super twist" crystals for bigger and better LCDs.

Sharp has demonstrated a 14in LCD screen which is 1in thick, weighs less than 4lb and has more than 308,000 pixels. Each pixel is divided into four dots, giving a display with more than one million points of light. It is acceptable for television pictures, but is not good enough for computers.

Most lap-top computers use LCDs, but these are in monochrome and the text is not as clear as that from a CRT monitor. Hitachi and Toshiba recently demonstrated 10in full colour LCD screens with picture quality matching IBM's business graphics standard. Hitachi says its screen could be available by the end of the year.

Several companies, including JVC, Sharp and Toshiba, have



Dr Alan Knapp: we have the technology to make a flat screen but it is too expensive to produce

developed LCD projectors. The pictures they give are not as bright or clear as those obtained from film or CRT, but the quality is improving. JVC recently used an LCD projector in a Japanese cinema and found the audience reaction encouraging.

But not everyone has given up on the CRT. A number of groups are working on flat CRT systems, which will combine a small size

with performance. Matsushita, parent company to Panasonic, Technics and JVC, has developed a beam matrix television which combines CRT and LCD. In a beam matrix set, the phosphors are arranged on the screen in a flat matrix, like liquid crystals. But the set uses a stream of electrons to excite the phosphors, producing CRT picture quality.

Matsushita has demonstrated

16in and 4in screens, with respective thicknesses of four and 2.5 inches, but no marketing date has been set.

Despite the quest for flat-screen displays, millions of pounds are still being invested in CRT production. Knapp says: "The CRT will remain the dominant display system for many years to come. In the meantime, it will get nibbled at the edges by LCD systems."

# Nature's way to clean up

Soil microbes are being used to reclaim one of the world's most polluted sites

Scientists are preparing to decontaminate one of Europe's most polluted sites using nature's technological speed up.

The land, nine environmentally unfriendly acres in the centre of Stockholm, formerly housed gas and coke works and a cressote plant. The land is soaked with pure cressote and stands beside a lake used for drinking water.

A Cardiff company, Bioremediation, has won the contract to make it safe by neutralizing the pollution with laboratory-grown soil microbes.

A gram of soil normally contains about 10 billion microbes. Consisting mainly of hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, carbon and sulphur, these microorganisms are harmless to humans even if consumed, but in the soil they slowly break down the complex molecules of chemical pollutants into water and carbon dioxide.

Bioremediation's scientists analyse contaminated soil samples to identify the microbe strain that is attacking the pollutants, then grow it in enormous numbers to be applied in solution to the land to accelerate the degradation.

The company's first case for treatment was a 24-acre disused gasworks site at Blackburn, Lancashire, contaminated with tars, phenols, cyanides, spent oxides and other toxic compounds, typical pollutants in land vacated by Britain's declining industries.

The £340,000 reclamation, financed by a government Development Land Grant, took two years and earned Bioremediation a Royal Society of Arts award in 1987. Light industry is now established on the site.

More recently, the microbial method was used on 160 square metres of the 120-acre Erdol oil refinery site at Speyer, West Germany. Oil had seeped into the soil and the underlying groundwater. The 21-week operation neutralized almost all the oil and oil hydrocarbons in the area treated.

The Stockholm project, approved by the city authorities last week and being carried out in partnership with Skanska, Scandinavia's biggest civil engineering company, is the first large-scale reclamation by microbial attack *in situ* — the treatment will be given without land disturbance, whereas in other projects soil is lifted and prepared on site for microbial treatment.

The reason is that land movement could spill the cressote, a cancer-inducing pollutant, into the adjoining lake, which feeds a river supplying Stockholm with water. The microbe solution will therefore be channelled through pipes sunk into the site.

Other main targets for microbial attack are refuse sites, where decomposing paper and food waste produce methane. In Greater Manchester, Bioremediation has gone into partnership with other enterprises to tap methane released from a landfill site by the microbial method. The gas then fuels a kiln run by Salvesen Brick.

At Arpley, Cheshire, the company is involved with a group that will use this method to draw out and use methane from a new dump that will receive 13 million tonnes of rubbish during the next 25 years. At peak production the tip will yield six million therms a year.

One great advantage of microbial treatment is that the contamination is permanently dissolved, whereas the traditional method of removing the contaminated soil, dumping it on a licensed site and laying down unpolluted soil merely relocates the problem, possibly to worry future generations.

The other environmental advantages are that it is quiet and is done on the spot, while land-stripping introduces noisy machinery and lorries travelling to and from the site for weeks.

The company also claims the technique is 20 per cent cheaper than conventional methods.

Dr John Rees, director and general manager, says: "We now have an opportunity to attack the pollutants in our soil. They cause damage to buildings and the contamination of water. And these problems are going to remain if you don't treat them in a thorough way."

Brian Collett

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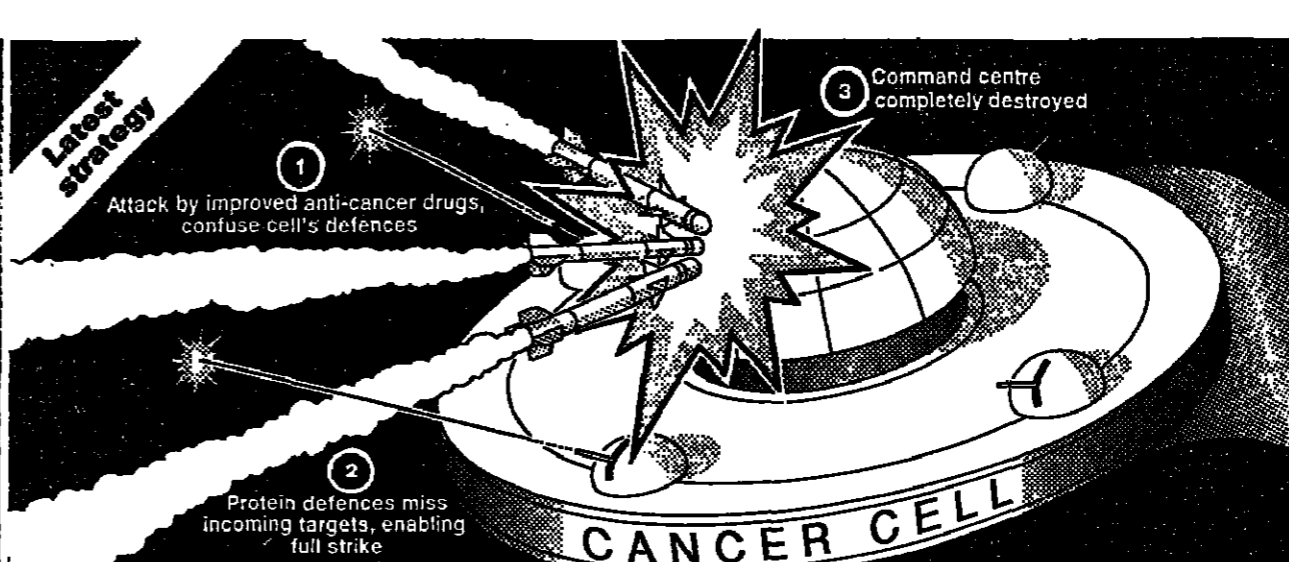
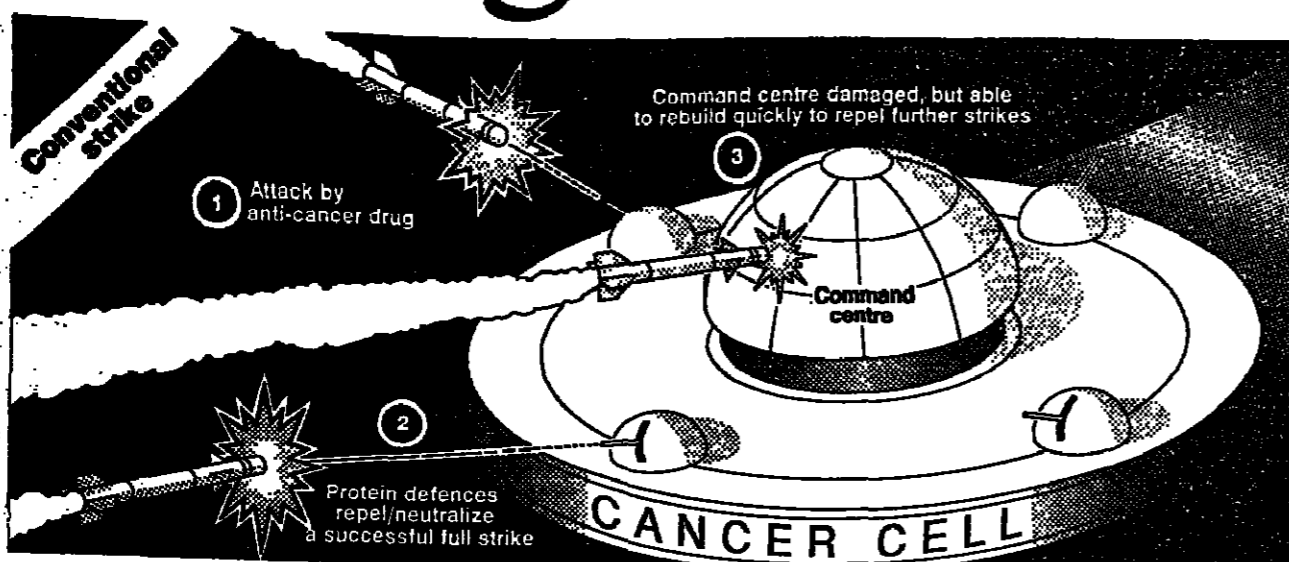
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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Firing new shots in cancer war



Scientists are testing weapons to break through the defences set up by cancer cells. Thomson Prentice says this gives solid hopes for a cure to thousands with the disease

New weapons are being developed in the war against cancer which will greatly enhance the prospects of survival for many thousands of sufferers in the next few years. Scientists in Britain and the United States are taking what may prove to be significant steps in control of the disease.

They are gaining fundamental insights into how cancer cells grow and thrive in the human body, and how they can be neutralized. Cancer is a cruel disease, not least because it so often stages a lethal comeback after apparently having been defeated. It has the power to resist even the most sophisticated drugs designed to combat it.

Now, however, new means of overcoming this trait are being developed and tested on British patients. At the same time, Ameri-

can researchers believe they have devised a method of transforming cancerous cells back to normal.

Drug resistance has always been one of the greatest and most frustrating obstacles to curing cancer. While many patients respond well to initial treatment, some cancer cells survive and become invulnerable.

No matter which drugs are used, every year 90,000 people in Britain die because even after success in initial treatment, eventually the disease wins the contest, repelling chemotherapy or making it impossible.

It does so in three basic ways. Cancer cells can switch on a defensive system which rejects drugs before they can take effect. They can also deactivate the drugs.

If some of the drug does penetrate the cell, it may not

destroy it, and the damage can be repaired quickly.

However, doctors have discovered the existence in cancer cells of a protein, called P-glycoprotein, which effectively turns back a wide range of invading drugs aimed at reaching and destroying the core of the tumour.

From this insight, it is now possible to employ drugs which can thwart the protein, without diminishing their attacking power. These include verapamil, normally used to treat blood pressure problems, nifedipine, a calcium blocker, and high doses of tamoxifen, which is successful in the treatment of breast cancer.

After lengthy laboratory trials, these compounds are being tested on patients in a project organized by scientists at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's clinical oncology unit in Oxford.

Professor Adrian Harris, head of the Oxford team, says: "It's too early to speculate about cures and long-term survival, but studies now under way are showing that some patients respond to this new method of treatment. Our hope is that by the end of the decade, thousands more patients will be able to live normal, active lives, with their disease under control."

He and colleagues are also testing drugs which prevent cancer cells repairing themselves after a drug bombardment. This work could be important in the treatment of tumours, including lung cancer.

In a third development, it has been found that cancer cells can neutralize drugs by using proteins called glutathione S-transferases, or GST. To overcome this, Dr

Roland Wolf, head of the ICRF molecular pharmacology and drug metabolism laboratory in Edinburgh, is trying to subvert the proteins so that they work with, rather than against, the drugs.

"In some forms of lung cancer, present treatment can remove all visible signs of the tumour, but one or two cancer cells survive and the tumour invariably regrows," he says. "This is an area of acquired drug resistance where we can come tantalizingly close to a cure, but we can't quite get there."

Monoclonal antibodies, chemical agents designed to seek out and stick to cancer cells, are becoming increasingly important in the accurate delivery of cell-killing drugs. Researchers believe that, when combined with resistance-weakening drugs, the effectiveness of these agents is boosted.

Meanwhile American research-

ers are enthusiastic about an experimental drug which appears capable of turning cancer cells back into normal cells. They hope to begin clinical trials this year to show that it can cure patients with different forms of cancer.

The compound is based on a new chemical, hexamethylene bisacetamide, or HMB. It is the result of 12 years work by Dr Paul Marks and Dr Richard Rifkin, of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre, New York, and Professor Ronald Breslow, of Columbia University.

Their efforts, featured in the Channel 4 programme *Dispatches* last night, provide evidence that cancer cells can behave normally. The challenge now is to develop a drug that is safe and effective. "The possibilities are huge, although a great deal more needs to be done," Professor Breslow says.

## Who controls key skills?

The IT industry is fighting over which job standards scheme to adopt

Government plans to create national vocational qualifications before 1992 are running into difficulties as professional organizations squabble over control of the skills standard.

The information technology industry has been trying to organize itself for the last year. One reason for the problems is that anyone can work in IT and there has been no huge demand from staff or employers for a formal registration system.

The British Computer Society (BCS) and the IT services companies' Computing Services Industry Training Council (CSIT) are both part of the National Council of Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ) standards body, but they are at loggerheads.

Each operates career development schemes for companies to help their staff move up the skills ladder. There are bitter rows over which scheme should form the basis of the IT competence standards, and which organization should award NCVQ certificates to staff, as a charge is made for each one issued.

The debate is dividing the industry. There are problems when staff training under one scheme move to a company which operates only the competing scheme. A marked difference between the two is that CSIT's competence tests can be signed by any supervisor or manager while the BCS allows only its own members to certify competence.

Membership of the BCS is

limited largely to those with academic achievements in computing while CSIT draws no distinction between those with degrees and those with on-the-job skills.

The issue of which organization should own the merged scheme is also in conflict because each charges companies taking the scheme on board. Both see themselves as the future custodian of IT skills standards, although the Government has made it clear they should be "industry led".

Alan Taylor, director of the BCS's professional division, says: "I would expect the BCS to be the principle standards body within the NCVQ and the guardian of these standards."

But Gordon Evans, director of CSIT, says: "They want a stranglehold on the qualifications to use for their own ends. The BCS wants to take us over and put us out of business. We are understandably reluctant to do that. They are concentrating too much on a narrow professional qualification."

Government ministers have placed great emphasis on the importance of creating work-related competence standards leading to nationally recognized qualifications, as Britain's workforce lags behind Continental competitors.

Sir Geoffrey Holland, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Employment, told a recent conference of IT managers that the moves to create technical and vocational qualifications are "good news" for Britain. "But," he admitted, "the issue of qualifications is a jumble if ever there was one."

The NCVQ has been set the task of approving qualifications, in conjunction with the Training Agency and representatives of companies and professional associations.

Leslie Tilley

## Computers see the light

An American breakthrough with lasers threatens to put Britain in the shade

Scientists at the Bell Laboratories of the American telecommunications giant, AT&T, have built the world's first digital optical processor, which uses beams of laser light rather than the electric impulses of existing computers.

The development is a sign that Britain, once regarded as the leader in the field, could see yet another technology taken over and commercially developed by others.

The work is still at a primitive stage with the prototype - a 2ft square collection of lenses, lenses and prisms - only able to operate at a speed slower than most personal computers.

But optical computing, as it is known, promises machines that could be 1,000 times as fast as today's and could finally crack the problems in image and speech recognition that existing computers handle clumsily.

Optical systems offer the potential for far better vision systems in areas such as robots, and the ability for computers quickly to recognize complex images such as a particular human face from a live camera image.

They have the potential to handle millions of tasks simultaneously and their much faster speeds are seen as necessary for such projects as the mapping of the human genetic structure.

Optical computers use an array of laser beams, rapidly switched on and off, which are focused by lenses and then passed on to other optical switches using mirrors. Unlike existing chips, where information comes only from the edges, optical chips would be able to pass information from their surface.

AT&T's interests include using



Step ahead: Alan Huang helped develop the digital optical processor

the computers for switching telephone calls, which are themselves increasingly being sent as beams of light through fibre optic cables.

Describing the new processor as a technological milestone similar to the Wright brothers' first aeroplane, Alan Huang, head of the optical research department at Bell, foresees the possibility of a telephone call in which the spoken words can come out the other end after computer processing as a fax or written computer file. Similarly, he says, video phones could finally become commonplace in the household.

But further breakthroughs will be necessary before optical machines can become commercial products - not least the need to miniaturize the prototype to the size of a microchip so that it can be

mass-produced at an economic price.

AT&T scientists believe light-based supercomputers that are far more powerful than existing machines could be available in a decade.

"It's the difference between going to a library and being able to read information from a single book versus being able to read from all the books in the library at once," Huang says.

The idea of digital optical processing was first demonstrated more than two years ago by Professor Desmond Smith, a pioneer in the field, and his team at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh.

For several years he has been warning that without better fund-

ing, Britain's lead in what could be a crucial computer technology would disappear by the end of the decade.

Four British scientists who used to work at Heriot-Watt, and who Huang says are crucially involved in the latest development, are working for AT&T.

"For a start there was a problem with salaries - one person who was earning £13,000 per year here is now getting more than \$60,000 - virtually three times as much," Smith says. "But more importantly the attraction is the funding available, which must be 100 times as much as we have. Here we are struggling to get into the development of components outside of the laboratory."

Huang says: "We owe Desmond Smith a great debt of gratitude, but it is basically a question of resources. Here we have access to certain equipment that together would cost more than \$60 million."

Though Smith claims the development is not quite the world-first claimed, he agrees that AT&T is catching up and has reached a milestone.

He has received funding over the past few years from the European Commission, the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC), Boeing and the Pentagon for work connected with the Strategic Defence Initiative (so-called "star wars").

But Smith maintains that funding must be much more ambitious if Britain and Europe are to keep up. "The SERC is looking at funding a joint Scottish project but only to the tune of £1 million. With five Scottish universities involved over four years, it works out at only £50,000 per university each year. We are looking for £10 million."

He hopes, however, that the AT&T announcement will attract attention and money into the field. He says he is talking to The Netherlands' Network Systems International, largely owned by AT&T, about work on a joint programme.

Matthew May

## Radiating concern

The health risk from low level electromagnetic radiation, emitted by computer screens and many household products, should be examined further, according to a study by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the American National Institute of Standards and Technology. Researchers say there is insufficient evidence to dismiss potential health risks from the weak electric and magnetic fields found in areas around power lines, radar emitters and even electric blankets.

James Weaver, MIT scientist and co-author of the report, stresses that it did not claim that electromagnetic fields pose a health threat. It argued that the subject should be given more scrutiny and taken more seriously.

## Back to earth

On Tuesday, scientists began examining the 11 ton science satellite recovered by the Columbia shuttle last month that had spent nearly six years in space and that appears to have suffered more wear and tear than expected. For the first time, satellite designers will be able to study the effects of such long exposure in space with the aim of developing longer-lasting satellites.

The original plan of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) to recover the satellite after only 10 months in space was postponed because of shuttle launch delays and the 1986 Challenger disaster. But the delay had its advantages, as scientists now say that the satellite is a mine of information about the effect of long spaceflight.

## Walking book

In an unusual public showing of future products in Tokyo, Sony has displayed what it describes as the first electronic book. The Data Discman, which weighs 1lb and is carried in the same way as a personal stereo, will use 3in compact discs which can each display up to 100,000 pages of information.

It can also be used to play music using the 3in CD single. Sony also displayed a pocket tape recorder -



using a two-hour tape little larger than a postage stamp and providing digital recording - one of many digital audio tape products planned - and a pair of Walkman headphones that are claimed to be able to electronically reduce certain types of background noise, including aircraft engines.

## Bug in the chips

Intel, the computer chip manufacturer, has discovered another bug in its powerful new processor, the 486, that will further delay the introduction of the latest generation of personal computers. An earlier bug, discovered in October, has been corrected, and Intel says the new problem can be dealt with by adding other logic devices rather than replacing the microprocessor. Compaq, which was due to start deliveries of computers using the new chip next week says it does not know how long the bug will delay deliveries.

Matthew May

## 'Checking up on Einstein is now a matter of urgency'

Continued from page 35

His apparent rush to spend such large sums of money in a field of research that has a disappointing record rests on other advances, particularly in laser technology. The new generation of detectors is based on laser beams that bounce back and forth along two stainless steel vacuum tubes, three kilometres long and 1.2 metres in diameter, that are placed at right angles to each other.

Laser light directed along each pipe is reflected continuously back and forth from mirrors suspended at the ends.

The apparatus is arranged to work on the principle that a gravity wave passing through the Earth will tend first to shorten one arm of the tubes, and lengthen the other, and then reverse the treatment.

Hough describes the effect as, first, like squeezing a rugby ball-shaped object to a football shape and then back again.

But that imperceptible movement to the eye would be measured by a momentary alteration in the phase of the laser light when it is reflected back along the pipe

from the mirror to a special detector. The influence of a passing gravity wave could scarcely be enough to be called a tremor in the accepted meaning of the word.

Hough says the movement detected by the laser system would be one-tenth of a millionth of a millionth of a metre, smaller than the diameter of an atom. But if the motion is caused by a gravity wave, the tiny change should be recorded by all the other observatories in the network.

The sites will be linked together by atomic clocks, ensuring that the scientists are certain they have detected the same event.

The use of four observatories and synchronizing them with atomic clocks would be critical for more than just locating the direction of a collapsing star or the effects of the black hole producing the signal.

Professor Bernard Schutz, at the University of Wales, in Cardiff, has suggested how to use the time difference of the gravity signals arriving at a network of observatories, to calculate the distance to events occurring millions of light years across space.

An ability to measure that

distance would resolve the challenge against the method of measurement that astronomers have used over half a century to calculate the distance of galaxies, and hence infer the size and age of the universe.

It is based on a law devised by Edwin Hubble, an American astronomer, in 1929. It explains how light seen from a receding galaxy is "stretched out" and redder in colour. By measuring the degree of red, known as red-shift, the age and distance of celestial objects can be estimated.

Unfortunately, other mechanisms for causing red-shift have been discovered recently in addition to that taken into account by Hubble's law.

Hough says variations in the interpretation of the red-shift can alter calculations of the age of the universe by a factor of two.

But if the red-shift of a galaxy, quasar or star is observed optically and its distance measured from a gravitational event by the new observatories, then Hubble's constant and the age of the universe can be obtained in an unambiguous way.

Hough believes that gravity wave detectors could also resolve

critical but controversial issues such as ideas for the existence of so-called cosmic strings, invisible loops of incredibly dense mass created in the instant after the Big Bang formed the universe billions of years ago.

Proof of the strings would be one of the most significant breakthroughs in astronomy since measurement of the bending of starlight by the Sun confirmed Einstein's Theory of Relativity.

More important, it would fill a missing gap with which astronomers have been struggling about how and when galaxies began to form.

When general relativity is applied to describing the behaviour of our own planet and our neighbours in the solar system, the predictions only differ from Newton's by a small amount.

Even so, the equations used by Einstein to describe his space-time universe produce some curious effects that some scientists find unpalatable.

According to the theory, a clock taken to the visible surface of the Sun would run slower by about a

minute a year, because of the Sun's stronger gravity, than if it had stayed on the Earth.

Ingenuous experiments in Britain and the US showed the same effect, with atomic clocks running slower if they were closer to the ground.

When men first visited the Moon, they placed a reflector on the surface of the Moon. For more than 20 years it has been the target for laser beams shot by Earth-bound scientists, who have taken thousands of measurements using the light reflected back.

Checking the measurements against estimates based on Einstein's equation, the measured variations in those from the Moon agree to within 25 centimetres of calculations.

More astonishing and recently discovered phenomena such as gravitational lenses - in which twin images of a distant object are seen on Earth because of the way the gravity from an intervening galaxy bends the light - are taken as illustrations of relativity at work.

But it was the rash of discoveries including quasars, neutron stars, pulsars and black holes, in which the role of gravity itself

became a prime candidate as the supplier of energy, that has made checking up on Einstein a matter of urgency.

Explanations for their existence call on gravity having overwhelmed some of the forces that sustain, on Earth, the elements that make up the rocks of the planet and its molten core.

Ideas such as the immense gravitational forces of black holes, which would slow down clocks and life processes so greatly that a lapse of 10,000 years on Earth would seem like only a few weeks to a voyager orbiting a black hole, have fired imaginations and raised questions of space and time.

A further paradox, on which the gravity wave observatory might shed some light, has arisen in the past two weeks.

It has come with the first results provided by the latest spacecraft from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) launched last November, called Cosmic Background Explorer (Cobe). These have thrown into doubt the existing theories of just how the first galaxies and stars were formed from the ball of hot hydrogen gas created by the Big Bang.

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY



The green machine? David Willis and the motor which he says is powered by radio waves. "As I adjusted the tuner to receive the station better the motor began humming like a top," he says

## Towards a better mousetrap

British inventor claims he has discovered a limitless source of clean power, tapping in to high frequency radio waves to run engines. David Willis, a disabled former Grenadier Guardsman, has developed a series of prototype motors to demonstrate fuel-less propulsion.

The 52-year-old Cornishman is convinced his discovery can play a vital role in curbing environmental destruction and global warming by rendering the internal combustion engine and its fossil fuels obsolete.

Willis, inventor of the world's first "indestructible paint", which has been used to protect the South African tanker, Kuluu, and parts of Oldbury-on-Severn power station in Gloucestershire, accepts that his claims are "staggering".

Nevertheless, he welcomes any of the large electronics companies to scrutinize his work.

According to Richard Paine of Inventalink, a London consultancy that puts inventors in touch with commercial partners, the threat to the environment has become a near obsession among the nation's inventors.

He likens it to the effects of a ferry disaster which appears to galvanize everyone into action, spawning dozens of marine safety devices.

Where Willis differs, however, is that his invention is on a grand scale, with the touch of eccentricity that fits the popular image of inventors. Paine, a former advertising agency executive, says 10 years of the Thatcher Government has brought a more realistic attitude.

"More of the ideas we are seeing are very well presented. There is less of the scribbled figures and diagrams on the back of an envelope", says Charles Dawes, an inventor, and one of the three-man team that founded Inventalink eight years ago.

Greater use of word processors and computers to better present ideas highlights this trend towards professionalism. Inventors now talk about filling gaps or niches in the market rather than revolutionary ideas which nobody may want.

The exact number of inventors working in Britain is unknown but Inventalink sees about 1,000 annually. Some do it for a living, whereas others have turned a hobby into a consuming passion.

Their ideas range from Flicker Bear for children, a strap-on arm attachment that flashes bright colours at night, to a vessel that is part ship, part hovercraft.

The vessel, called a Hi-Ship, was designed by John Rillet, of Bibury, Gloucestershire. He claims it uses the

**The mad inventor stereotype is far from the new marketing power of today's ideas men, says Nick Nuttall**

same power as a conventional craft, yet can travel twice as fast on its air-lubricated hull.

To ensure the inventions registered have merit, Inventalink has formed links with experts in various fields. Only a fraction of inventors are finally taken on and promoted, given advice on patenting, presentation and a contract to protect from intellectual theft.

Some large companies still balk at the notion of independent inventors, Dawes says. But many are starting to recognize the benefits of outside "ideasmen", people capable of cracking a design or engineering difficulty from an overview of the problem.

Some big companies employ a person specifically charged with

searching for outside inventions, he explained. Also, instead of beating a well worn path to a company's headquarters, Inventalink is starting to find that businesses are coming to it.

In an attempt to reach a wider audience for British inventions, the company has started publishing *Inventions*, a monthly newsletter. This is being distributed to leading companies to act as a shopping list for ideas and to spark interest in inventions.

Nevertheless, both agree that there is still the place for the true visionary — the inventor who, standing in the shower or staring out to sea, is suddenly seized by an idea.

So it was with David Willis, who explains that his idea came two years ago, while he was recovering from a long illness. "I was struck by the fact that the Earth and the Sun's magnetic fields allowed satellites to move around our planet," he says.

"I began wondering how magnetic forces could be harnessed." Over several months, he began experimenting with a small motor consisting of coiled magnets that would run on electricity. Willis wondered if this could be designed so that radio waves could act on the

magnets, changing their polarity and causing them to move.

During the following months, he cobbled together contraptions consisting of a magnetic motor, a powerful receiver to collect radio waves, complete with microchip and an aerial.

Late one night, his work paid off. "The radio wave was coming in from BBC Radio Cornwall and to my great astonishment it started to move, using no electricity. As I adjusted the tuner to receive the station better the motor began humming like a top," Willis says.

"The little thing just flew around." Exact details of his design and its success are being kept under wraps, but he has built a transmitter and motors that he claims can turn a fly-wheel without fuel and run his grandson's pram.

Willis, whose other commercialized inventions have included a device for use on aircraft that leaks coloured dye if an engine bolt fails, is now designing a four-engine, 12ft wing-span plane for launch in summer.

A spokesman for the electronics group General Electric Company (GEC) says the company is highly sceptical that the device could be harnessed in a useful way, but adds that it would be happy to examine the prototype.

## SCIENCE REPORT

## Aids cure a step nearer

The fight against Aids moved a step further this week, with the announcement of a new family of anti-viral chemicals, described by their discoverers as the most powerful found so far.

Reporting in today's issue of *Nature*, Rudi Pauwels of the Rega Institute for Medical Research in Belgium and colleagues show how the chemicals block an enzyme vital to the life-cycle of the Aids virus, HIV-1.

Remarkably, the new chemicals, called TIBO derivatives, are effective in minuscule amounts. This means that their toxicity in humans should prove to be lower than that of the Aids drug AZT, already in use.

The new chemicals are also far more selective in the kinds of virus they will stop; unlike AZT, for example, TIBO derivatives have no effect on HIV-2, a strain of the Aids virus closely related to HIV-1.

The new TIBO derivatives, like AZT and other anti-Aids chemicals such as ddC and ddI, which are at present being tested, work by disabling reverse transcriptase, an enzyme without which HIV-1 cannot reproduce.

Reverse transcriptase performs its vital functions at an early stage in the life cycle of HIV-1, soon after the virus has entered a healthy cell. TIBO derivatives, by blocking reverse transcriptase, prevent the virus from hijacking the cell's own biochemical machinery to make copies of itself.

Most anti-HIV drugs being developed, including TIBO derivatives, stop the virus at the beginning of its life cycle. But today's announcement follows another report describing the activity of a completely

different kind of anti-HIV chemical, designed to stop the virus at a much later stage.

In the January 26 issue of *Science*, T.J. McQuade of the Upjohn Company in the United States and colleagues describe the anti-viral activity of a chemical inhibitor specifically designed to block HIV-1 protease, a different type of HIV-1 enzyme from reverse transcriptase.

Whereas reverse transcriptase springs into action as soon as the virus invades the cell, HIV-1 protease enters the story much later on, finishing the job started by reverse transcriptase.

The protease tailors the raw HIV-1 proteins ready for assembly into new virus particles. The American

researchers' results show that after treatment with the protease inhibitor, cells infected with HIV-1 produce fewer viral particles that are less infectious than normal HIV-1.

According to Don Jeffries, head of the Anti-viral Testing Unit at St Mary's Hospital, London, protease inhibitors may prove more effective in treating HIV infection in the long run than drugs targeted against reverse transcriptase.

"The initial results with protease inhibitors are very promising and there is the possibility that they will completely stop virus production without being toxic," Jeffries says.

Current research into protease inhibitors suggests that it should be possible to design one that blocks HIV-1 protease but spares the body's own arsenal of proteases, killing the lethal virus, but not the body's own cells.

David Concar

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The appointed researchers will be required to take part-responsibility in the management of certain tasks which will involve travel within the UK and Europe. An ability to carry out individual research as well as to work in a team is essential.

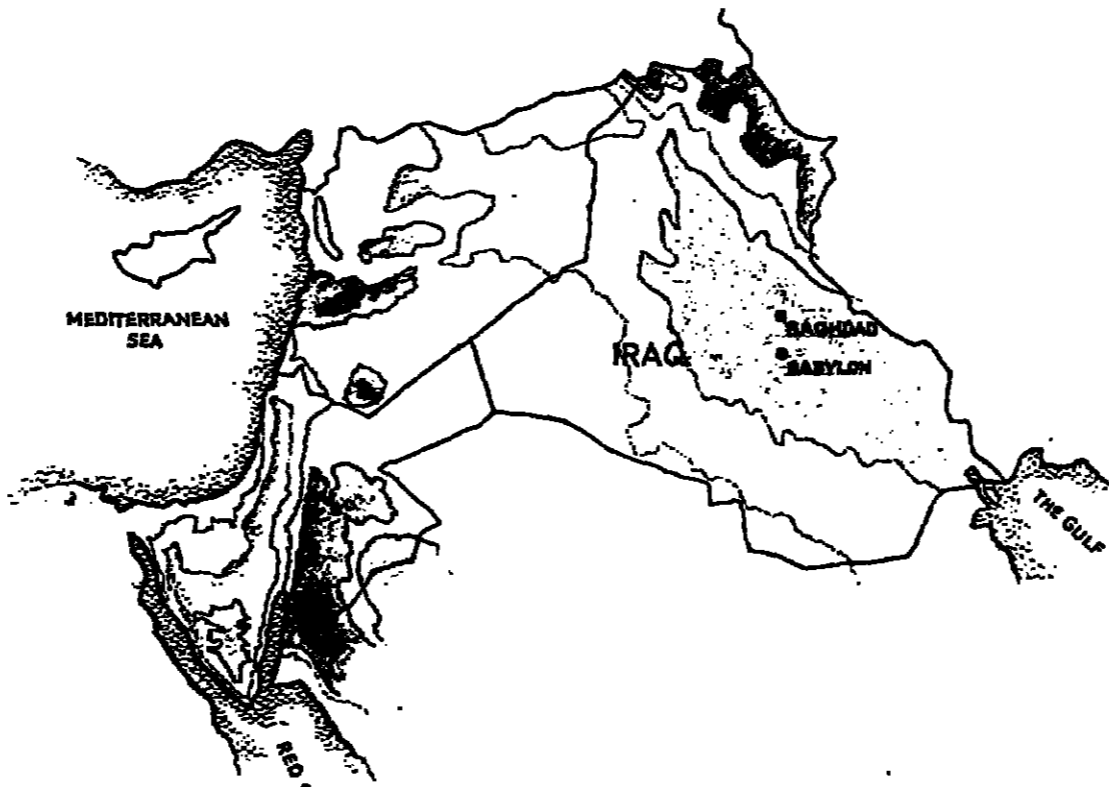
The work will be supported by the extensive research facilities available to the group, backed by other resources from the Faculty of Engineering. Informal enquiries may be made to Mr K. Khodabandeh on Bristol (0272) 303240.

For further details telephone Bristol 303136 (ansaphone after 5 p.m.) or write to the Personnel Office, Senate House, Bristol BS1 1TH. Please quote Reference 25.

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# Weightlifting to be subjected to official inquiry

By John Goodbody

As a second Welsh weightlifter was disqualified from the Commonwealth Games for doping, Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, yesterday flew to Auckland, planning an inquiry into drug abuse.

Moynihan, a notable fighter against the illegal use of drugs, wants the investigation as a follow-up to the inquiry that he and Sebastian Coe held in 1987. It will concentrate on weightlifting, after the disclosures of dope-taking in the sport by *The Times* last November and the spate of positive tests both before and after the Games.

Britain now faces an international ban from the sport for a year, because of the number of competitors who have tested positive within a 12-month period.

Moynihan, who is attending the Commonwealth Sports Ministers Conference on Sunday, would like the Olympic 1,500 metres champion to join him in the investigation, which he had considered carrying out even before the revelations in New Zealand.

Basil George, the Welsh deputy team manager, said that Gareth Hives, who won three silver medals in the 100kg class, had become the second Welsh lifter to fail a drug test at the Games. Another Welshman, Ricky Chaplin, and Subratkumar Paul, of India, have already been stripped of their weightlifting medals after being tested positive.

Moynihan said before leaving London: "I will continue



Hives: stripped of medals to press vigorously for random independent testing in and out of season and not just in competitions. This is the only way that cheating, through drug abuse, will be stamped out.

Meanwhile, Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat MP for North-East Fife who is a former Commonwealth Games sprinter, again demanded that the Government should move to make the possession of anabolic steroids, without a medical prescription, a criminal offence.

He said: "How many incidents of this kind are necessary before the Government takes action?" He is a sponsor of a Private Members Bill which is due for a second reading on March 2. His party yesterday tabled an early day motion, calling upon the Government to "cease its procrastination".

The Sports Council had set up an inquiry into drug abuse in weightlifting after a request by the British Amateur

Weightlifters Association (BAWLA) and yesterday Ossi Wheatley, the vice-chairman of the Welsh Sports Council, warned that financial support to the sport in the Principality could be withdrawn.

He said: "The governing body will be called to account when they return from Auckland. There is going to be a far-reaching inquiry into how and why two lifters took drugs and where they got the banned substances from."

The Welsh Sports Council has such a strong policy over drugs that it has refused to give grants to four governing bodies, which refused to co-operate with its testing programme. Last year, the Council tested 46 lifters in competition, including 12 Welshmen. Only one, an Irishman, was found positive, when he took part in an international event.

Because of lack of finance it could not afford out-of-competition testing. However, this will come in through the British Sports Council, which shortly will carry out a new programme of out-of-competition sampling, with competitors being required to provide urine for analysis, with a maximum of only 48 hours notice.

Hives, aged 23, a steelworker from Port Talbot, was sixth in the mid-heavyweight class at the 1986 Games before moving up to the heavier division. He was fourth in the 1989 international Silver Dragon competition behind Nicu Vlad, of Romania, a descendant of Vlad the Impaler, who gave birth to the Dracula legend.

In New Zealand yesterday George said: "It is the biggest smack in the teeth we have ever had. I have never known a Commonwealth Games team that has been hit so hard as this one. Unfortunately, two people, who want to put something down their throats or whatever they do with the drugs, have put a whole team in disrepute. But the team cannot be blamed as a whole."

## Paul's job in jeopardy

Calcutta (AFP) — Subratkumar Paul, who tested positive for steroids in the Commonwealth Games after winning two silver medals and a bronze at weightlifting, may lose his job on the Indian railways.

A railway spokesman said yesterday that Paul might be suspended from service until the department had investi-

gated his conduct at the Games. His father, Samil Paul, believes that an Indian team-mate may have given him the pills.

Subratkumar has not contacted his family since leaving Auckland and, yesterday, the weightlifting federation president, Chaman Lal Mehta, said Paul, aged 26, seemed to have disappeared.

## Champion condemns lifters

Lynn Davies, the Welsh sporting hero who won a long jump gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics, was at the forefront of the nation's condemnation of the two disgraced weightlifters yesterday.

Davies, in Auckland as a television commentator, said: "There are no excuses for it, because at the end of the day it is cheating. It's a sad day for Welsh sport."

"The Welsh team can't believe anyone could have been so silly as to risk taking drugs, especially after the Seoul Olympics when the whole Bulgarian weightlifting team was sent home."

"I think it's absolutely right that they are banned because the only way to fight drug taking is to impose very, very severe penalties."

## Tactics missing in Tau's double first

From David Rhys Jones, Auckland

Geeta Tau won Papua New Guinea's first Commonwealth Games gold medal — and the first bowls medal — when her uncomplicated approach took her to a 25-18 win over Millie Khan, of New Zealand, in the women's singles final. Tactics did not concern her, she simply drew close to the jack at every opportunity.

Trailing 9-10 after 14 ends, Tau sneaked ahead 13-11 after 17. The next two ends tipped the scales in Tau's favour, counts of three and four setting her firmly on the road to victory.

United Kingdom players have not been able to exert any authority on the championships, and tomorrow's pairs final features Australia and Canada, with

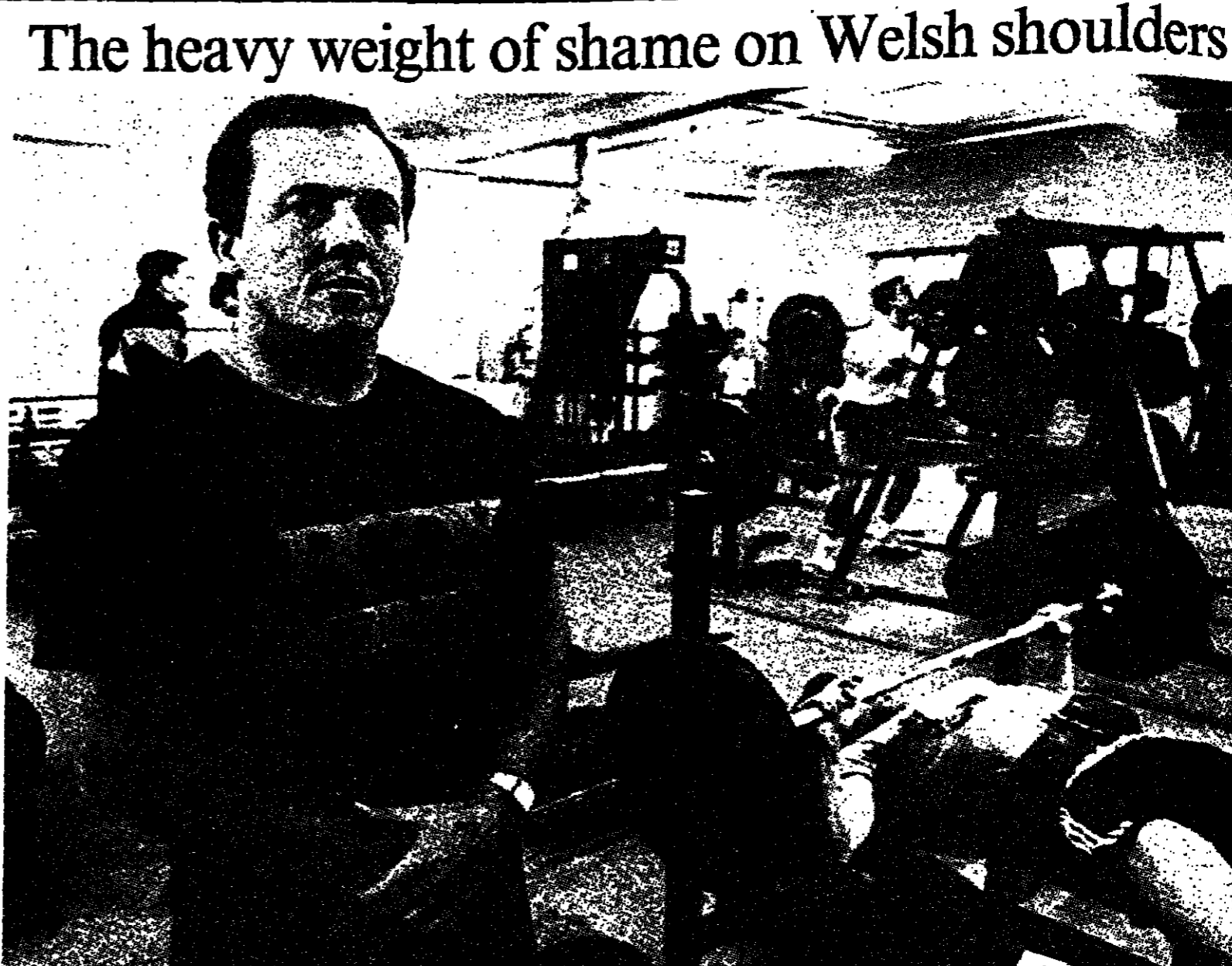
## Dead champion tribute

Auckland (Reuters) — Friends of Victor Davis, the late Olympic swimming champion, flew his ashes from Canada to the Commonwealth Games to scatter them on the waters of the Pacific in a dawn ceremony yesterday.

Stubbs, who gave the eulogy at the 25-year-old Davis's funeral, said a local Maori tribe had given their blessing for the service. A Catholic priest was among the nine people on the boat.

Swimmer Tom Ponting and diver Dave Bedard, both national team members with Davis, threw the bouquets awarded to them as medal winners from the boat.

Adrian Moorhouse, of England, who was beaten by Davis in the 100 metres breaststroke final at the 1986



A shadow haunts the gym out of which Wales produced weightlifting gold in Auckland: Burns, the owner and a gold medal winner himself, fears the worst

## A nation has its face slapped

By Owen Jenkins

Embarrassment and shame gripped the world of Welsh weightlifting at the news that two of its medal-winners in Auckland had failed drug tests. But there was little surprise among those at the grass-roots level of the sport.

John Burns, who won weightlifting gold medals for Wales in the Commonwealth Games at Edmonton and Brisbane, said that anabolic steroids were readily available even to youngsters just taking up the sport. Burns owns the gym in Swansea where David Morgan, who won three gold medals in Auckland and carried the national flag in the opening ceremony, trained.

On Sunday, after his latest success, Morgan threatened to return his

medals as a protest against the widespread use of drugs in the sport. Burns shares Morgan's feelings.

"It was like a slap in the face when we heard the news," he said. "It had to come out but it's come to a head in the worst possible way. It is such a waste because the boys could have done it without the drugs. It's put weightlifting back a few years. You're not going to have the young people coming into a sport that has such a bad reputation."

"People take drugs because it's the only way they can catch up. They can pick up steroids in some high-street gyms and other sources. I know of five or six places in Swansea and the true figure is probably double that. People phone me and ask if I supply steroids. Suppliers have the classic excuse that

if they didn't do it, somebody else would. It makes you wonder to what extent they would go. There is the temptation to move up to other things like hard drugs."

Ian Carruthers is an instructor at Burns's gym. He admits that he was tempted to take drugs when he competed. "I resisted because of concern for my health," he said. "I have personal knowledge of drug-taking in other sports — mainly the contact ones like judo, karate, even rugby. I know of people taking stuff designed for animals."

And Burns noted ruefully that the two men who were caught were probably not the only ones using drugs. "They are getting caught because they're coming off the drug too late," he said. "A lot that have

been clean might have been taking them. There's a proportion of about 20 to 30 per cent at the top Games that use drugs. I feel that testing should be applied throughout the year on a random basis."

"In my view, there are three options open to the Sports Council and the British Olympic Association. First, they can ban weightlifting from the Olympic and Commonwealth Games. Second, they should try to emulate the Australian Sports Institute, where good training takes place with medical back-up facilities for injuries sustained because of such high-intensity training. And third, the Government should give more tax concessions for major companies to encourage them to adopt and sponsor an Olympic sport."

## Dead champion tribute

Auckland (Reuters) — Friends of Victor Davis, the late Olympic swimming champion, flew his ashes from Canada to the Commonwealth Games to scatter them on the waters of the Pacific in a dawn ceremony yesterday.

Stubbs, who gave the eulogy at the 25-year-old Davis's funeral, said a local Maori tribe had given their blessing for the service. A Catholic priest was among the nine people on the boat.

Swimmer Tom Ponting and diver Dave Bedard, both national team members with Davis, threw the bouquets awarded to them as medal winners from the boat.

Adrian Moorhouse, of England, who was beaten by Davis in the 100 metres breaststroke final at the 1986

## Chinese accused of steroid abuse

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## US team is at new frontiers

Miami (AP) — The United States will play their first match against East Germany on March 28 in the John Stadium, in East Berlin, the United States Football Federation (USFF) said yesterday.

The United States added their eighth warm-up game for the World Cup finals when they agreed to play Iceland.

"Although we had other possibilities for opponents, the opportunity to play in East Berlin was one we could not pass up, given the recent developments in Eastern Europe," Saidi Gulati, the chairman of the USFF's international games committee, said.

March 28 will be a busy day for European football. Seven other matches are scheduled. The Netherlands play in the Soviet Union, Brazil play England at Wembley, Austria are in Spain, Wales in the Republic of Ireland and France in Hungary.

The United States have not played since the 1-0 victory at Trinidad and Tobago on November 19 which sent them through to the finals, and open their 1990 schedule tomorrow in the Marlboro Cup of Miami.

The United States play Costa Rica tomorrow, and either Uruguay or Colombia on Sunday. They then play at Bermuda on February 13 and come home to play the Soviet Union on February 24 at Stanford, California.

## World Cup safety problems

Rome (AFP) — Fears about the safety of the grounds on which Italy will stage the World Cup finals emerged yesterday. Work on some of them is drastically behind schedule because of bureaucratic hold-ups and political wrangling.

Organizing committees from many of the 12 centres made their fears public after the deaths of nine site workers at the grounds. Five workmen have been killed at Palermo, two at

Genoa and one each at Turin and Bologna since last September.

Part of the stadium collapsed at Palermo, killing the five, most of the other deaths have been caused by falls and the collapse of cranes.

Work is behind schedule at Rome, Naples and Palermo, which has forced contractors to speed up operations. Organizing committees said this was often leading to

precarious conditions on the construction sites.

The Italian grounds are now just two months from the final inspection by FIFA, football's international governing body.

The mayor of Rome, Franco Cossiga, a former Italian Olympic Committee chairman and minister for sport, said stricter checks would have to be carried out and some slowing of the work ordered to avoid new accidents.

## Hadlee to return

Wellington (AFP) — Richard Hadlee, the New Zealand cricketer, has been added to the party to play India in the first Test match in Christchurch starting tomorrow. Hadlee, who is four wickets short of becoming the first bowler to take 400 Test wickets, has been recovering from surgery on an Achilles tendon.

Hadlee, who replaces the injured Willie Watson, has been included despite his comeback consisting of just three limited-over club games.

## Halpin out

Gary Halpin, Ireland's replacement prop for Saturday's rugby union international against Scotland in Dublin, has been forced to drop out of the squad with food poisoning.

## SPORT IN BRIEF



Hadlee: back in business

## Backings up

Benson and Hedges is to sponsor a snooker tournament for players outside the top 16 from January next year.

## Interview date

Silvino Francisco, the South African snooker player who has been helping police with their inquiries into alleged betting irregularities over matches, has been told that he will not be interviewed again until early March.

## Hosts Sale

Sale Harriers, the defending champions in the European women's junior athletics championships, are to stage this year's event at Wythenshawe Park, Manchester, on September 22. The club are to meet the £25,000 bill to cover costs.

## Notice to quit

Oldham rugby league club, has served notice to quit on the town's greyhound stadium. Oldham greyhounds rents the land off the rugby club on a 20-year lease which expires in August.

## Ghana protest

Accra (Reuters) — Ghana has protested to the World Boxing Council over the decision to award the world super-flyweight title to Moon Sung-ki, of South Korea, after his bout earlier this month with Nana Konadu, of Ghana, the holder, was stopped.

## Reversal by ACO on Le Mans race

By John Blunsden

The Automobile Club de l'Ouest (ACO) have been forced to reverse yesterday's announcement that the Le Mans 24 hours sports car race would take place on June 16 and 17. Yesterday, the ACO lost its long running battle with FISA, which announced the race's cancellation after the organizing club had failed to apologize publicly for what the governing body refers to as "a campaign of defamation" against it.

This was a reference to the ACO's contention that FISA was more interested in the race's commercial rights than with the safety aspects and that the issue of the seven kilometre Mulsanne straight, which had been introduced by FISA at a late stage in the dispute, was a smokescreen aimed at hiding the real issue.

Last year, the Le Mans race was removed from the world championship calendar after the failure of the ACO and FISA to reach agreement over television and other commercial rights.

Earlier this week the ACO announced that two chicanes were to be inserted into the Mulsanne straight to meet the recently announced FISA ruling that no circuit would be sanctioned for international racing which had a straight more than two kilometres long.

This, it was thought, had

saved the world's most significant endurance race, subject to the FISA circuit inspection team being satisfied that the necessary work had been put in hand. However, in yesterday's statement, FISA described an announcement by the ACO on Tuesday, that the race would take place, as false and that no serious guarantees had been given by the ACO that the necessary chicanes would be built.

There has been a history of conflict between the two bodies, and their failure to resolve their differences, whether they revolve around safety, money or merely egos, is another serious scar on the already tarnished image of motor racing.

It is a particularly bitter blow for those teams for whom the annual appearance at Le Mans and the promotional value they derive from it is central to their support of endurance racing and the justification for the huge financial investment involved in their total racing programme.

## Six-day for Elliott

Malcolm Elliott, the Sheffield cyclist who won the points classification in the Tour of Spain last year, begins his second season with the Teka team when he competes in the Fusa del Sol six-day race, starting in Marbella on Tuesday.